



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD

**Agenda Item 10-D**  
**Action Item**

**To: Chair Bohmke and the VRE Operations Board**

**From: Rich Dalton**

**Date: May 17, 2024**

**Re: Authorization to Execute a Sole Source Contract for Window Gaskets for VRE Railcars**

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**Recommendation:**

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Sole Source Contract with Custom Glass Solutions Trumbauersville, LLC of Worthington, Ohio, for the purchase of Window Gaskets for VRE Railcars in the amount of ***\$1,831,709, plus a 10 percent contingency of \$183,171, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,014,880.***

**Summary:**

This authorization will allow VRE to purchase inner and outer window gaskets for both emergency and non-emergency windows on VRE's fleet of one hundred railcars. Under VRE's Life Cycle Maintenance (LCM) Program, these window gaskets have reached the end of their useful life and need replacement. The window gaskets will be installed by VRE's maintenance services contractor, Keolis Rail Services Virginia.

**Background:**

VRE purchased 79 Gallery IV passenger cars and 21 Gallery IV cab cars between 2006 and 2014. Each Gallery IV car has an average of 16 emergency windows and 29 non-emergency windows. Each window is attached to the car body using multiple window gaskets made primarily of rubber. Due to an average of thirteen years' exposure to light, oxygen, and heat, the rubber in the gaskets is deteriorating.



Northern Virginia  
Transportation Commission  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 230  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-524-3322



Virginia Railway Express  
1500 King Street, Suite 202  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-684-1001  
VRE.org



Potomac and Rappahannock  
Transportation Commission  
14700 Potomac Mills Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-580-6121

By replacing the window gaskets, VRE will have enhanced critical components within the window system. The gaskets ensure the side windows remain securely in place when subject to the extreme pressures experienced as trains pass or when operating in a tunnel. Additionally, these window gaskets are a critical piece of safety equipment in the event of an accident or derailment as the gaskets are vital to keeping the windows securely in place such that the windows can provide an effective barrier between the occupants inside the railcar and the outside environment. At the same time, the gaskets must also be easily removed by passengers or first responders to gain emergency egress from the railcar if needed.

VRE's drawings and data for the Gallery IV railcars do not provide the necessary component details to support the development of a sourcing specification, nor the critical dimensions and chemistry details that would be required for such specifications. Custom Glass Solutions is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for the window gaskets currently installed on VRE's fleet of railcars. Since the gaskets designed for compatibility with the Gallery IV railcars are proprietary to Custom Glass, no other supplier or contractor can produce window gaskets with the necessary dimensions required to provide the form, fit, and function needed to integrate with the emergency and non-emergency windows of VRE's Gallery IV railcars.

This non-competitive purchase is in accordance with the following Section of the VRE Public Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual:

6.8.2.1 The item is available only from one responsible source because (a) It involves a unique or innovative concept or capability not available from another source. Unique or innovative concept means a new, novel, or changed concept, approach, or method that is the product of original thinking, the details of which are kept confidential or are patented or copyrighted and is available to the recipient only from one source and has not in the past been available to the recipient from another source.

A sole source determination has been made in accordance with state and federal requirements, and VRE Procurement Policies, and public notice will be provided.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding is provided through Federal formula funds (Section 5337 – State of Good Repair) and associated state and local matching funds.

**Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board Resolution**

**10D-05-2024**

**Authorization to Execute a Sole Source Contract for  
Window Gaskets for VRE Railcars**

**WHEREAS**, the VRE Operations Board adopted a lifecycle maintenance strategy for VRE rolling stock in January 2014 to maintain VRE locomotives and passenger railcars at the highest level of reliability throughout the equipment lifecycle; and,

**WHEREAS**, VRE purchased 79 Gallery IV Passenger Cars and 21 Gallery IV Cab Cars between 2006 and 2014; and,

**WHEREAS**, under VRE's Lifecycle Maintenance program, the window gaskets for VRE's fleet of railcars are reaching the end of their useful life and need replacement; and,

**WHEREAS**, Custom Glass Solutions is the original equipment manufacturer for the window gaskets currently installed on VRE's fleet of Gallery IV railcars; and,

**WHEREAS**, Custom Glass Solutions is the only supplier able to produce window gaskets with the dimensions required to provide the form, fit and function needed to integrate with the emergency and non-emergency windows of VRE's Gallery IV railcars; and,

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with state and federal requirements, and VRE Procurement Policies, a determination has been made, and public notice thereof will be provided, that because Custom Glass Solutions is the only vendor able to supply window gaskets that are compatible with VRE's fleet of Gallery IV railcars, this qualifies as a sole source procurement;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Sole Source Contract with Custom Glass Solutions Trumbauersville, LLC for Window Gaskets for VRE Railcars, in the amount of ***\$1,831,709, plus a 10 percent contingency of \$183,171, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,014,880.***

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

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Meg Bohmke  
Chair

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Ralph Smith  
Secretary