

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 8-B
ACTION ITEM

TO: CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD

FROM: DALE ZEHNER

DATE: JUNE 19, 2009

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A RFP FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A NEW FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for technical support required to develop requirements and technology options for a new VRE fare collection system.

BACKGROUND:

The current fare collection system has been in revenue service since October of 2002. As such, the ticket vending machines (TVM) and ticket office machines (TOM) are nearing the end of their useful life. While many components of the system have been rehabilitated, including ticket printing/validation mechanisms, touch screens, card readers, and hard drives, work must begin now to design, procure, construct and install a new system.

Since the VRE system was designed, the fare collection industry has been transitioning from the magnetic stripe technology, used by the current VRE equipment, to contactless smart cards, including related technologies such as mobile phone payment systems. This technology offers the potential for greater flexibility in the variety of ticket media utilized and across modes of transportation as well as reduced maintenance requirements (by eliminating the number of moving/wearing parts in the fare collection equipment). VRE plans to take

advantage of these new technologies in the system design as well as work to ensure that compatibility is achieved with the regional SmarTrip program.

The scope of work for this technical support includes an assessment of VRE requirements and available technologies, specification development, and technical review of fare collection vendor proposals. Upon receipt and review of proposals, VRE staff will return to the Operations Board and recommend a specific firm for award.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the project is included in VRE's Capital Improvement Program as part of the Fare Collection III project. Funding is available from FY 2007 and FY 2008 federal grants. The local match is provided using state and local funds.

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RESOLUTION
8B-06-2009
OF THE
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

WHEREAS, the existing fare collection equipment has been in place for almost seven years; and,

WHEREAS, the ticket vending machines and ticket office machines are nearing the end of their useful life; and,

WHEREAS, a rehabilitation program is in progress to extend the lifespan of the equipment an additional three to four years before additional rehabilitation would be required; and,

WHEREAS, fare collection technology has continued to evolve since the VRE system was designed; and,

WHEREAS, work must begin now to design, procure, construct and install a new system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for technical support required to develop requirements and technology options for a new VRE fare collection system.