



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

Agenda Item 5-E
Consent Item

To: Chair Bohmke and the VRE Operations Board

From: Rich Dalton

Date: January 29, 2024

Re: Recommend Authorization to Submit USDOT FY2024 RAISE Grant Application

Recommendation:

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board is asked to recommend the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit, on behalf of the Commissions, an application to advance the planning and design for the a grade-separated extension of Residency Rd. over the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS) main line to the VRE Broad Run Station and the NS third track extension from the Broad Run Station to Wellington Rd. to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for funding consideration for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program, to make any necessary corrections to the project amount or descriptions in the application, and execute all project funding agreements that may result from consideration of the project.

Summary:

On November 30, 2023, USDOT issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for the RAISE program. VRE staff have identified a project to extend Residency Rd. across the NS mainline tracks to improve access and resiliency at the VRE Broad Run Station and add a third main track to expand railroad capacity between the Broad Run and Manassas Stations. If authorized, USDOT RAISE planning grant funding will be used for the planning, development, and preliminary design phases of the project.

Background:

On November 30, 2023, USDOT issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for the RAISE program. According to the NOFO, projects seeking RAISE funding



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703-524-3322



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VRE.org



Potomac and Rappahannock
Transportation Commission
14700 Potomac Mills Road
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will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation. Within these criteria, the USDOT will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support climate resilience, avoid environmental impacts including impacts to disadvantaged communities, address environmental justice, and create good-paying jobs. Applications are due on February 28, 2024.

VRE staff have identified a project to extend Residency Rd. across the NS mainline tracks to improve access and resiliency at the VRE Broad Run Station and Manassas Regional Airport and add a third main track to expand railroad capacity between the Broad Run and Manassas Stations. The project aligns with multiple RAISE merit criteria including safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, and partnership and collaboration.

If authorized, USDOT RAISE planning grant funding will be used for the planning, development, and preliminary design phases of the project. The project cost requested for this work in the grant application will be \$3,637,000.

Federal RAISE grant funds may be used for up to 80 percent of the project cost. The balance of the project cost must be from non-Federal sources including State funds originating from programs funded by state revenue, local funds originating from state or local revenue-sources, or private funds. The maximum RAISE program grant award for capital projects or planning grants for the planning, preparation, or design of surface transportation projects is \$25 million. A minimum 20 percent non-federal match contribution is required. The required match for this application in the amount of \$727,400 will be provided from non-federal funds.

VRE staff, along with VRE's General Planning Consultant (GPC), will develop the required application documentation. The application will be coordinated with the Prince William County Department of Transportation, the City of Manassas, and NS.

Fiscal Impact:

The submission of a grant application has no immediate fiscal impact. If selected for RAISE grant funding, a formal amendment to the FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budget to reflect the receipt of the RAISE grant funds and use of VRE funds for the grant match would be presented to the Operations Board in December 2024 for approval and referral to the Commissions.

**Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board Resolution**

5E-01-2024

Recommend Authorization to Submit USDOT FY2024 RAISE Grant Application

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity to solicit applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity transportation discretionary grant program; and,

WHEREAS, staff considers the Residency Rd. connector and bridge and the Norfolk Southern Railroad third track extension from the Broad Run Station to Wellington Rd. a strong candidate for planning grant funding under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program; and,

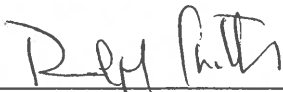
WHEREAS, if authorized, the planning grant funding will be used for the planning, development, and preliminary design phases of the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity transportation program funds may be used for up to 80% of the project cost with the balance of the project coming from non-Federal sources; and,

WHEREAS, the project cost requested for this work in the grant application will be \$3,637,000 with a required non-federal match in the amount of \$727,400;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit, on behalf of the Commissions, a planning grant application for the Residency Rd. extension and bridge and the Norfolk Southern Railroad third track extension from the Broad Run Station to Wellington Rd. under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity transportation discretionary grant program, to make any necessary corrections to the project amount or descriptions in the application, and execute all project funding agreements that may result from consideration of the project.

Approved this 29th day of January 2024



Ralph Smith
Secretary



Meg Bohmke
Chair