



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD

**Agenda Item 9-A**  
**Consent Item**

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

**From: Rich Dalton**

**Date: April 19, 2024**

**Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Locomotive Exterior Painting Services**

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**Recommendation:**

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Locomotive Exterior Painting Services.

**Summary:**

This resolution will authorize VRE to solicit proposals from qualified and experienced contractors for Locomotive Exterior Painting Services.

**Background:**

VRE previously purchased twenty MP36PH-3C locomotives from MotivePower, Inc. These locomotives were delivered to VRE in 2010-2011. VRE's fleet of locomotives must perform in demanding conditions including shock and vibration and exposure to the elements. Exposure to water, ice, brake dust, dirt, and moisture at high speeds can damage the components of the locomotives if they are not properly protected. The locomotives are also exposed to high pressure water jets during cleaning and maintenance activities. Each of these elements has contributed to the degradation of the protective coatings applied to the exterior surface of the locomotives which can lead to corrosion and rust.

VRE's Lifecycle Maintenance (LCM) team has identified the need to repair the diminished exterior surfaces and apply new protective coatings, which will include primer, paint, and decals, to prolong the life of the locomotives. Professional exterior painting services are beyond the LCM team's capabilities, and VRE does not have any on-site resources such as a paint booth to support this type of repair.



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As determined in accordance with VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures, an Invitation for Bids (IFB) is neither practical nor fiscally advantageous to VRE and an RFP is the preferred method of procurement for this solicitation since there are different approaches to the desired service and an evaluation of technical merit is required.

Upon completion of evaluation of proposals, negotiations will be conducted with the two highest ranked firms deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting Proposals, based on the factors specified in the evaluation criteria. Price will be considered in the context of technical performance for this service to achieve a best value determination. After receipt of the best and final offer from the top-ranked firm, a cost analysis will be performed to compare the proposed cost with the independent cost estimate to determine whether the proposed cost is fair and reasonable.

The scope of work for the RFP will include transportation to and from a remote location or mobilization of a mobile paint booth, where each locomotive will have its exterior surfaces stripped of loose or damaged coatings. Exterior rust will also be repaired and/or mitigated, to include sanding, the application of primer, painting, and the application of required decals and VRE insignia.

Upon receipt and evaluation of proposals, staff will return to the Operations Board for authorization to execute a contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding is provided through Federal formula funds (Section 5337–State of Good Repair) as part of VRE’s ongoing Equipment Asset Management (EAM) program.

**Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board Resolution**

**9A-04-2024**

**Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for  
Locomotive Exterior Painting Services**

**WHEREAS**, VRE purchased twenty MP36PH-3C locomotives from MotivePower, Inc., which were delivered in 2010 and 2011; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, VRE's Lifecycle Maintenance team has identified the need for locomotive exterior painting services to address any existing damage, and to apply fresh protective coatings including paint to protect and prolong the life of these assets; and,

**WHEREAS**, Professional exterior painting services are beyond the capabilities of the Lifecycle Maintenance team, and VRE does not have any on-site resources such as a paint booth to support this type of repair;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby acknowledge the determination made by the VRE Contract Administrator in accordance with the VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures that competitive bidding is not practical, nor fiscally advantageous to VRE, and that competitive negotiation is the appropriate method to procure these services; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for Locomotive Exterior Painting Services.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024



Ralph Smith  
Secretary



Sarah Bagley  
Vice Chair