

**ACTION ITEM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

DATE: September 6, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM
County Administrator
ISSUE: Approve Bonus Obligation Matching Funds for VRE Commuter Lots

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: N/A

BUDGET IMPACT: None at this time

TIME SENSITIVITY: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: (2)

[1] Memo dtd. 9/1/11

[2] E-Mail dtd. 8/12/11

REVIEW: County Administrator's Office



Consent Agenda
 Discussion Item
 New Business

Other Business
 Presentation

Public Hearing
 Unfinished Business

PRESENTATION BY: Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM
County Administrator

ELECTION DISTRICT: Aquia District
Falmouth District

Board of Supervisors

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County Administrator

Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Anthony J. Romanello, County Administrator

Subject: Bonus Obligation Matching Funds for VRE Commuter Lots

Date: September 1, 2011

The County, through its FAMPO representatives, has set aside CMAQ funds for the construction of expanding parking facilities at the Leeland and Brooke Station VRE lots. While the engineer's estimate exceeded the CMAQ allocation, the VRE Board, in consultation with County staff, bid the projects in hopes that the current economic climate would bring an acceptable price. Bids came in at \$800,000 over budgeted funds. Interest in the bids was small.

VRE has bid the project a second time. (See attached e-mail from Jennifer Mouchantaf, Deputy Executive Director at VRE.) In cooperation with County staff, the project has been heavily marketed among local and Northern Virginia contractors to attempt to bring in competitive bids. In addition, some design elements have changed to reduce the cost slightly.

To close the potential budgetary gap, VRE is pursuing bonus obligation funds in the amount of \$800,000 from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit. Should those funds be allocated, the County would need to provide a 20% match (\$160,000). VRE must commit its intent to pursue those funds by the end of September.

Bids are due September 2, 2011. At the September 6, 2011, Board meeting, staff will have additional information for the Board to consider.

Attachment



From: Jennifer Mouchantaf [mailto:JMouchantaf@vre.org]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Anthony J. Romanello
Subject: Brooke and Leeland

Anthony – please let me know if you would like anything else.

Jennifer

The Brooke and Leeland VRE parking lots are fast approaching capacity with Leeland Road at 96% and Brooke at 89% (May 2011). The Brooke parking lot currently has 499 spaces and the Leeland Road lot has 652 spaces. A significant increase in ridership over the past few years has accelerated the demand for commuter parking. Several years ago, VRE and Stafford County began work to expand both facilities and Stafford County leased property at Leeland Road to accommodate immediate demand. Stafford County obtained \$4.4 Million in CMAQ and RSTP funding for the expansion projects. The grants were programmed for FY06 through FY11 and have, to date, been used to complete the NEPA Environmental Assessment at each site, the acquisition of property at Brooke, and final design of both expansions. The construction projects will yield an additional 234 spaces at Brooke and 196 spaces at Leeland Road.

As a result of significant environmental challenges, site conditions, soil type, and geography, the process has required more time and money than initially forecasted. VRE posted an Invitation for Bids in May 2011. The lowest bid result in June 2011 was approximately \$800,000 more than the remaining grant funding available for construction. In an effort to maximize the construction funding and be able to construct both parking lots at the same time, VRE and Stafford County worked to reissue the bid solicitation in July 2011. Several cost saving measures were evaluated and the specifications were revised to allow for the use of more on-site earthwork. Both agencies also reached out to additional contractors in hopes of receiving a greater number of competitive bids. The bids are due September 2, 2011 and would have to come in at \$2.3M or less to have enough money for both projects with a contingency.