

**ITEM 11-D**  
**September 6, 2018**  
**PRTC Regular Meeting**  
**Res. No. 18-09-\_\_\_**

**MOTION:**

**SECOND:**

**RE:           APPROVE PURSUIT AND SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF FEDERAL  
TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION DISCRETIONARY PASSENGER FERRY  
GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**ACTION:**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) a \$4.2 million Passenger Ferry grant for capital expenditures to launch commuter ferry service on the Potomac River and tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, VDOT has expressed interest in transfer of passenger ferry grant administration willingness and offered technical assistance in support of PRTC's pursuit and application to the FTA to transfer administration of the grant; and must be obligated (agreement finalized between FTA and ultimate grant recipient) by September 2019.

**WHEREAS**, the FTA Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant Program requires a match of \$845,000 and allows for third-party monetary and/or in-kind real property contributions to satisfy the match requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, North Woodbridge property owners on the Occoquan River have proposed to meet the match requirement through the potential construction or expansion of a dock, up to 340-surface parking spaces, and establishment of a covered waiting area; and

**WHEREAS**, a 5-year lease agreement of this real property is valued at \$950,000, sufficient to serve as the required grant match and shall be approved by the Federal Transit Administration.

**WHEREAS** this FTA Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant has identified sources of revenue for shore-side infrastructure through both federal grant and local match, and PRTC is a legal designated grant recipient with experience in managing the technical requirements of federal grants; and

**WHEREAS**, PRTC has the authority and capacity to serve as administrator of federal transportation grants; and

**WHEREAS**, PRTC will pursue funding for staffing sufficient to administer this passenger ferry FTA grant from any eligible federal, state, or local grant; and PRTC also has Commission authorization to pursue funds from local government entities that may benefit from advancement of passenger ferry transportation infrastructure or service; and

**WHEREAS**, administration of this grant is consistent with the PRTC Strategic Plan and serves to implement recommendation actions; provide subject matter expertise to project sponsors during the planning and design of new corridors that will help maximize the use of transit; promote transit-oriented development in the Prince William area that is supportive of high-capacity transit investments; and

**WHEREAS**, traffic congestion continues to have significant economic and quality of life impacts on residents in the region and the need to explore alternative transit options is critical; and

**WHEREAS**, ferry service addresses additional emergency preparedness and economic growth needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director to pursue the necessary steps to seek transfer of the FTA Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant, with support and assistance from VDOT, and initiate the tasks for formal grant administration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, however, that the Executive Director shall bring any contract necessary to secure the grant to the commission for its consideration and approval.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent from Vote:**


**Alternate Present Not Voting:**


**Absent from Meeting:**



September 6, 2018

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Chuck Steigerwald   
Director of Strategic Planning

THROUGH: Robert A. Schneider, Ph.D.   
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Authorization to Approve FY19 Schedule and Bus Stop Display Production Task Orders

Recommendation:

Approve the pursuit and authorize the Executive Director to accept a subsequent transfer of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) discretionary passenger ferry grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Background:

In 2014 VDOT was awarded a \$4.2 million FTA capital grant for passenger ferry service. Since the time of award VDOT has expressed the desire to transfer administration of the grant to a local FTA legally designated recipient, such as PRTC. The grant must be obligated by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

In addition to being a legal designated recipient, PRTC has the requisite experience in managing the technical requirements of federal grants. Management is recommending approval of the resolution for the following additional reasons:

- Administration of the grant is in keeping with the agency's Strategic Recommendation to support local and regional efforts to explore new modes of high-capacity transit.
- As currently planned, ferry service would fill existing transit gaps between the I-95 corridor and Southeast Washington, DC. The importance of such a service will grow as the Department of Homeland Security consolidates its workforce in Southeast Washington.

- A large and diverse stakeholder group has shown an active interest in the project. This group includes private sector partners willing to commit capital improvements and resources.
- Ferry service would be an important addition to regional emergency preparedness efforts.
- Additional high-capacity transit modes will be critical in addressing issues of congestion in the region and will support economic growth.

The grant consists of \$3.38 million in federal funds (80%) and \$875,000 in local funds (20% match). The FTA Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant Program allows for third-party monetary or in-kind real property contributions to satisfy the match requirement. Local property owners have proposed to meet the match requirement through the construction or expansion of docks, 340-surface parking spaces, and the use of an existing building for a passenger terminal. A 5-year lease agreement of this real property is valued at \$950,000, sufficient to serve as the required grant match.

Management anticipates that administration of the grant will require an increase in staff size. PRTC will pursue funding for staffing sufficient to administer the grant from any eligible federal, state, or local grant. PRTC also has Commission authorization to pursue funds from local government entities that may benefit from advancement of passenger ferry transportation infrastructure or service.

Fiscal impact:

No direct costs. The grant agreement will be returned to the board for final consideration and approval.