



# Virginia Railway Express Operations Board

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## AGENDA ITEM 10-B INFORMATION ITEM

**TO: CHAIRMAN JENKINS AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD**

**FROM: DALE ZEHNER**

**DATE: JUNE 20, 2008**

**RE: GAINESVILLE-HAYMARKET FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

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Work has begun on the Gainesville-Haymarket Feasibility Study following the December Operations Board approval of a contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB). The feasibility study expands upon the work completed in the 2005 Gainesville-Haymarket Implementation Plan. Specific tasks to be completed as part of the study include:

- Updated ridership and financial estimates
- Identification of candidate sites for stations, parking, overnight storage
- Feasibility analysis of proposed operations and infrastructure requirements
- Preliminary environmental review

The consultant team is currently collecting data and documenting existing conditions within the Manassas to Haymarket corridor. VRE staff and the consultant team will be scheduling informational interviews with key stakeholders (e.g., Prince William County staff, City of Manassas staff, Norfolk-Southern, etc.) to assist in formulating project goals and objectives. An informational meeting is being planned for July to introduce the study to the general public and solicit public opinion.

The study is scheduled to be completed in March 2009. Once complete, the next step in the project planning process is to conduct a National Environmental

Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of proposed extension alternatives and preliminary engineering.