SUMMARY STATEMENT

ITEM NO.: DRPA-20-063


BOARD: New Business

BOARD ACTION DATE: April 15, 2020

PROPOSAL: That the Delaware River Port Authority (“DRPA”) Board of Commissioners authorizes staff (i) to apply to the proper United States Government agencies and/or departments for any and all applicable relief funds and grants issued to address the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease and (ii) to accept and receive the proceeds of any such relief funds that have been or may be issued in response to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease.

PURPOSE: To make application to the appropriate federal government agencies and/or departments for relief funds related to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease and to receive and process the funds awarded pursuant to such applications.

BACKGROUND: The novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the resulting COVID-19 disease have presented an extraordinary challenge, not only to the private sector, but also to our public transportation infrastructure. The DRPA serves as a critical partner in the transportation infrastructure serving DRPA’s Port District, which contains the Nation’s sixth largest metropolitan region. DRPA, through its wholly owned subsidiary Port Authority Transit Corporation (“PATCO”), operates the PATCO High Speed Line that operates between Philadelphia and Lindenwold, which serves residents of the DRPA Port District. The current national crisis has resulted in a historic loss of revenue that necessitates DRPA seeking emergency relief from the federal government. This relief is vital to DRPA’s continued operations and the preservation of its assets -- which benefits the region as well as the nation by maintaining DRPA’s critical role in our regional and national infrastructure network.

To date, the United States Congress has responded to this catastrophic pandemic by passing the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” or the “CARES Act.” In this bill, Congress provided a one-time influx of $25B into the Federal Transit
Administration (FTA) formula grant program, specifically, Sections 5407 and 5340. PATCO routinely receives annual capital grants of roughly $15M from this program. The CARES Act removes the capital project mandate, allows for relief funds to be applied towards operational costs, including, without limitation, wages, PPE purchases, and offsetting lost revenue, dating from January 20, 2020 through the end of the fiscal year. The CARES Act also amplifies the amount that transit agencies receive and removes the cost match; the federal share is now 100% instead of 80%. Staff recommends that the DRPA be permitted to accept any funds that may be allocated to the DRPA and/or PATCO because of the CARES Act.

Further, DRPA staff have been monitoring developments within Congress and the Executive Branch. Based upon these observations, staff believes there will be follow-up stimulus and relief legislation similar to the CARES Act. This follow up legislation is very likely to include additional “infrastructure” relief. Staff has issued correspondence to the various Congressional representatives from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware on behalf of DRPA and its fellow regional toll agencies to request that any additional federal legislation include provisions providing targeted aid for the nation’s toll agencies during this crisis. Such targeted funding would ideally provide unrestricted relief funds to offset any lost revenue, operating expenses, including, without limitation, wages, expenses incurred to obtain PPE and such other costs arising from or related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the prospect of future federal funding, staff seeks authorization from the Board to pursue any and all future relief funding when such anticipated federal funds are made available.

**SUMMARY:**  
Amount: TBD  
Source of Funds: Federal Grant  
Capital Project#: N/A  
Other Fund Sources: N/A  
Duration of Contract: TBD  
Other Parties Involved: US DOT, FTA, and any such other Federal Agency
RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the appropriate DRPA officers and staff are authorized (i) to apply to the appropriate United States agencies and/or departments for any and all applicable relief funds that have been or may be issued to address the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease and (ii) to accept and receive the proceeds of any such relief funds that have been or may be issued in response to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease.

RESOLVED: The Chair, Vice Chair and the Chief Executive Officer must approve and are hereby authorized to approve and execute all necessary agreements, contracts, or other documents on behalf of the DRPA. If such agreements, contracts, or other documents have been approved by the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive Officer and if thereafter either the Chair or Vice Chair is absent or unavailable, the remaining Officer may execute the said document(s) on behalf of DRPA along with the Chief Executive Officer. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent or unavailable and if it is necessary to execute the said document(s) while they are absent or unavailable, then the Chief Executive Officer shall execute such documents on behalf of DRPA.

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