

August 18, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: David J. Deutsch, City Manager
SUBJECT: Acquisition of a Caboose for the Bowie Railroad Museum

Several months ago the existing caboose at the Bowie Railroad Museum was auctioned and subsequently removed from our property. This action represented the first step in a process that involves significant activity at this address which includes construction of the Heritage Trail, the 10th Street Playground and the acquisition of a new caboose with concurrent improvements at the Bowie Railroad Museum.

The next step in the process is to acquire a replacement caboose. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) Museum possesses a caboose that is in fair condition and they are willing to “de-accession” and offer to us at no cost. However, the caboose needs repair work and the B&O has the original drawings of the caboose and the ability to restore it on site so that it both fits our needs and arrives in Bowie in “like new” condition. The B&O restoration staff has excellent, and well respected, restoration skills and has performed this type of work for other communities around the State of Maryland including the restored Chessie caboose in La Plata, part of the Charles County Rails and Trails program. Our Historic Properties Manager, Ms. Pam Williams, has an excellent working relationship with the B&O Railroad Museum and has reviewed the caboose in question.

In order to formalize the process, a Memorandum of Understanding between the B&O Railroad and the City of Bowie must be executed. This document will delineate the process and commits the City of Bowie to pay the B&O Railroad for the necessary renovation work. The cost to perform the work is \$65,100. It includes shop fees (labor) of \$49,400, metal supplies at \$3,000, primer, paint and supplies at \$10,000, stencils at \$1,200 and window and upholstery work at \$1,500. The work will require 19 weeks at 40 hours per week to complete. This work represents the necessary components to repair leaks, and wall and floor damage. The caboose being acquired was manufactured in 1975 and subsequently retired in 1995. It will have the Chesapeake and Ohio colors which are navy blue with yellow trim.

With City Council approval, a Memorandum of Understanding will be executed in order to begin the “de-accession” process. Concurrent to the renovation of the caboose, staff will secure the services of a firm that can transport the renovated caboose and also lay new track and rock at the Bowie Railroad Museum in order to receive the caboose. It will be temporarily installed in the same location as the prior caboose. Once the construction of the Heritage Trail is completed, along with the improvements in and

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around the depot area, the caboose will eventually be transported in Fiscal Year 2017 to its final location immediately behind the Welcome Center and Bowie Railroad Museum. Funds were originally appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget to complete these two tasks, but were not expended. A re-appropriation of \$65,100 to renovate the caboose and \$25,000 for its transportation and site preparation has been included as part of City Council agenda on September 21, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend approval of R-63-2015 for the acquisition of a caboose and its renovation from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for the purpose of replacing the former caboose located at the Bowie Railroad Museum in order to provide effective history interpretation of the railroad and its impact on Bowie. Arrangements to transport the renovated caboose will occur in early 2016.

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ACQUISITION
AND RENOVATION OF A CABOOSE FROM THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO
RAILROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,100

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie owns the Bowie Railroad Museum, located at 8614 Chestnut Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie recently auctioned off an existing caboose and is in need of a replacement unit; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad owns a caboose it is willing to “de-accession” at no cost to the City of Bowie; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie desires to acquire the caboose and contract with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to perform certain renovations to the caboose prior to its delivery; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is a reputable firm fully capable of completing the work necessary to complete the renovations in a timely fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to acquire a caboose and to perform necessary renovations to said caboose in the amount of \$65,100.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on September 21, 2015.

ATTEST:

THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND

Awilda Hernandez
City Clerk

G. Frederick Robinson
Mayor