



APPROVED

BY: *FW*

DATE: *7/6/26*

Whittaker, Frank M <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>

Emergency Purchase Authorization

1 message

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Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 12:58 PM

To: John W Estep <john.w.estep@wv.gov>

Cc: Frank M Whittaker <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>, Thomasena S Cooper <thomasena.s.cooper@wv.gov>

Good afternoon,

I spoke with Frank Whittaker about this issue this morning and this is my formal request for authorization to go forward with an emergency purchase of 1,000 railroad ties due to a recent derail incident.

Earlier this year, we pursued a purchase of 4,000 installed railroad ties and 1,500 loose ties for the state-owned WV Central Railroad through an RFP. The contract was awarded to a qualified vendor is currently on-site working under that Agreement.

Last week, in an unrelated incident, a ballast car derailed unbeknownst to the train crew. The derailed car was dragged and seriously gouged and/or destroyed ties from Milepost 18.7 to Milepost 21.5. At MP 21.5 it completely jumped the track pulling off 2 other cars alerting the train crew of the issue, but not before at least 1,000 ties were damaged requiring replacement.

While the track is in this condition, we have a slow order limiting the speed for freight and passenger services. This may cause delays in scheduling those activities and providing services for industrial customers and excursion passengers. We fear prolonging this condition could result in additional derailling events if not addressed immediately.

We have informally consulted through our operator about the on-site vendor performing the emergency repair/replacement. We have obtained estimates that would allow them to perform the work at a minimal per unit increase. For reference, their March 5, 2026 quotation, which was used in their bid for a unit price of \$69.60 per tie, can be slightly increased to \$71.70 per tie, representing an increase of \$2.10 per tie above their original bid cost. As they are onsite they will not have to remobilize their equipment saving the State as much as \$50,000. They are agreeable to absorb the additional material cost and hold their contract unit price of \$156.40 per tie for 1,000 ties for a total of \$156,400.00.

Based on our familiarity in the industry, this is the lowest possible price for our agency given the factors above. As time is of the essence, we are requesting immediate authorization for DMTF to pursue this emergency purchase as soon as possible

I am happy to discuss.



Stephen R. Connolly, Esq.

Interim Commissioner

West Virginia Department of Transportation

Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities

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