



**ITEM ID:** 2025-322-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** October 17, 2025

**MEETING DATE:** October 24, 2025

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Tom Schamber, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:** Contract No. PO857-21 - Brake Pads and Shoes for Locomotive and Rail Cars - Recommendation to Increase Contract Authority - Railroad Friction Products Corporation

### **Issue**

The Materials Management Department utilizes contract PO857-21 to purchase the Brake pads and shoes required to support maintenance of the Authority's rolling stock.

### **Recommendation**

Contracts, Operations, Maintenance, and Safety Committee recommended (3-0) the Board to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the authority of Contract No. PO857- 21 with Railroad Friction Products Corporation by \$350,000 for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1,850,000.

### **Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by deploying new technologies and processes to enhance the safety and security of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. Replacement of brake pads and shoes are necessary to maintain the Authority's rolling stock in a state of good repair.

### **Background**

The Authority's fleet of locomotives and passenger cars use brake pads and brake shoes to stop its trains. A brake pad applies friction to the side of a wheel or brake rotor while a brake

shoe applies friction to the wheel tread which contacts the rail. The Authority uses three types of brake pads and three types of brake shoes to support its locomotives, Bombardier cars, and Rotem cars. To ensure that the brake systems of the rolling stock fleet work properly, old brake pads and shoes are replaced with new ones as they wear out.

On March 26, 2021, the Board approved the award of Contract No. PO857-21 - Brake Pads and Shoes for Locomotives and Rail Cars to Friction Products Corporation for a three-year base period and one two-year option for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500,000. On April 1, 2024, the two-year option was exercised, and the Contract is set to expire on March 30, 2026. Due to higher-than-expected usage, the original contract Authority has almost been exhausted.

**Discussion**

The Authority utilizes Contract PO857-21 to purchase new brake pads and shoes needed to ensure timely replacement of old worn brake and brake pads on its fleet of Locomotives and Passenger cars. As seen in recent years prices for parts have seen a considerable increase. A quick quote request to compare the pricing of the F125 Locomotive Brake Shoe model V330 against current pricing by other suppliers showed that by taking advantage of the pricing for contract No. PO857-21 the Authority will see a savings of \$20.44 for each brake shoe.

Brake Model	Contract PO857-21 Pricing	Progress Rail's Quote
V330	\$15.50	\$35.94

A new IFB will be advertised in the coming months to replace PO857-21, but it is in the Authority's best interest to continue taking advantage of the pricing under PO857-21 established five years ago.

**Budget Impact**

The amount for which contract authority is requested is included in the operating budget of the Materials Management Department for FY26.

**Next Steps**

Upon approval by the Board, staff will continue issuing Purchase Orders on as-needed basis to Railroad Friction Products to replenish inventory of brake shoes and brake pads.

Prepared by: Eduardo Tovar, Manager II, Inventory Control

Approved by: Tom Schamber, Chief Financial Officer