



November 28, 2018

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director 

Subject: Draft 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program

Overview

Each calendar year, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency adopts a Legislative Program of strategic goals to guide its legislative activities for the upcoming session. An initial draft of the 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program has been prepared for consideration by the Board of Directors. The draft will be further refined through input from the Board of Directors and the Technical Advisory Committee and brought back to the Board of Directors for final adoption.

Recommendation

Direct staff to incorporate requested changes to the initial draft of the 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program and return to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Discussion

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Board of Directors (Board) annually adopts a Legislative Program (Program) to provide direction to staff when individual legislative efforts are reviewed. The Program outlines broad policy positions to guide staff when developing legislative activities and making recommendations to the Board. Official LOSSAN Agency positions not directly addressed by the Program will be brought to the Board for separate action during the legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the California State Legislature. The Board last updated the Program on December 6, 2017.

The Program provides a focused set of principles aligned with the LOSSAN Agency's role, while advancing the goals outlined in the LOSSAN Agency's annual Business Plan. The Program is organized into three major categories:

1. Secure Sustainable Funding
2. Connectivity and Integration
3. Infrastructure, Service, and Safety Improvements

The initial draft of the 2019 Program retains key provisions from the 2018 Program, while also updating the language where necessary. Grammatical edits were made to ensure the Program's readability. An explanation of the proposed revisions follows:

- The existing principle on the implementation of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act was edited slightly to reflect that surface transportation reauthorization discussions will begin next year.
- Section III, subsection (c) was revised to reflect the need for funding to operate and maintain Positive Train Control safety technology.

In the midterm elections held on November 6, 2018, voters across California rejected Proposition 6, which would have repealed the transportation funding provided in Senate Bill (SB) 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017). As a result, SB 1 funding and programs will move forward, although legislation may be proposed to alter the administration or allocation. The 2019 Program contains language added after the passage of SB 1 that will allow the LOSSAN Agency to advocate for its interests during the continued implementation of this funding, both protecting existing formula-based programs while seeking expanded funding opportunities.

After the Board reviews the initial draft, staff will continue to further refine the draft 2019 Program, and staff will return to the Board with a final draft in January. Looking ahead, to ensure the maximum applicability of the Program, the Board may review and amend the Program as it deems appropriate when new legislation or legislative issues arise. In addition, to most effectively advocate for the Program's goals and principles, LOSSAN Agency staff will continue to explore and identify opportunities to leverage the legislative resources and expertise of LOSSAN Agency's member agencies in order to advance the positions and goals outlined in the Program.

Summary

The draft 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program is presented for the Board of Directors' consideration. 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency staff will return to the Board of Directors with a final draft of the Legislative Program in January 2019 for final adoption.

Attachments

- A. Draft 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program (Strikethrough Version)
- B. Draft 2019 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program (Clean Copy)

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustin J. Sifford".

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