



January 17, 2019

To: Members of the Technical Advisory Committee
From: Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director
Subject: Capital Improvement Projects – Priority Projects List Development

Overview

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency receives funding for small capital improvement projects on an annual basis. Funding is provided for these projects by California Department of Transportation, Division of Rail and Mass Transportation minor capital projects funds, as well as State Rail Assistance Formula funds administered by the California State Transportation Agency. A priority list of capital improvement projects has been developed in consideration for the use these funds. A complete list of identified projects as well as a draft recommended projects list is presented for Technical Advisory Committee review and discussion.

Recommendations

- A. Review and discuss potential capital improvement projects for use of fiscal year 2016-17 and 2017-18 minor capital improvement funds and fiscal year 2018-19 State Rail Assistance funds.
- B. Recommend a program of capital improvement projects for Board of Directors approval.

Background

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Rail and Mass Transportation (DRMT) annually allocates approximately \$500,000 for the delivery of minor capital improvement projects to passenger rail facilities on the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor. Projects funded through this program include station and track improvements, informational signage, and minor safety and security enhancements. Additionally, Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) includes approximately \$440 million directed specifically to commuter and intercity rail services through the State Rail Assistance (SRA) program. The SRA program is intended to fund

both operational and capital improvements through a combination of formula and competitive distribution. The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) is an eligible recipient of these funds. LOSSAN Agency staff is seeking input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in the development of a priority list of projects for utilization of available fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 and 2017-18 minor capital improvement funds and FY 2018-19 SRA program funds.

Discussion

Minor capital improvement projects must follow the approval process outlined by Caltrans DRMT. In general, the program guidelines require eligible projects to involve the construction, installation, alteration, or repair of a physical improvement to rail facilities, such as stations, maintenance yards, or tracks. Projects submitted for funding under the program must also be under the cost limit established by the California Public Contract Code for a “minor” capital improvement (currently set at \$291,000). On August 21, 2017, The Board of Directors (Board) approved a list of priority projects to utilize available FY 2015-16 minor capital projects funding.

The SRA program is intended to provide intercity rail agencies with a source of supplemental revenue that can be used to fund both operational and capital Improvements and is administered by California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). No dollar threshold for projects is included under the SRA program.

Currently, the LOSSAN Agency has approximately \$640,000 in available minor capital projects funding, with an additional \$5.2 million in SRA program funding. Approximately \$140,000 of the minor capital projects funding is for FY 2016-17 and has a project completion deadline of June 2019.

LOSSAN Agency staff and personnel from Amtrak engineering, in cooperation with member agencies, station owners, and the state of California, conducted a thorough audit of all stations and facilities on the LOSSAN rail corridor. The complete list of projects developed as part of that effort is included in Attachment A. Following that effort, additional time was spent with Amtrak engineering to refine the list. The goal was to identify projects that could be completed under the two funding programs, with consideration given to any dollar thresholds and completion deadlines associated with each fund type. The list was developed in an effort to maintain geographic equity, while giving attention to specific needs that have been identified as part of station and facilities audits. A draft program of projects that could utilize the available funding is included in Attachment B.

The complete list of projects, as well as the draft program of projects, is presented for TAC review and discussion.

Next Steps

After TAC review and input, a final draft program of projects will be forwarded to the LOSSAN Board of Directors (Board) for approval. Upon Board approval of the proposed program of projects, LOSSAN Agency staff will submit the projects for approval by Caltrans DRMT and CalSTA. Depending on feedback received during the approval process, projects and/or scopes of work may be adjusted as needed to receive approval. Once the project implementation process begins, LOSSAN Agency staff will return to the TAC and Board with semi-annual status updates on all minor capital improvement projects.

Summary

Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency staff is seeking input from the Technical Advisory Committee in the development of a priority list of projects for utilization of available fiscal year 2016-17 and 2017-18 minor capital improvement funds and fiscal year 2018-19 state rail assistance funds. The draft priority list of projects will then be presented for Board of Directors review and approval.

Attachments

- A. LOSSAN Rail Corridor – Stations and Facilities Audit List
- B. Draft LOSSAN Agency Capital Improvement Program – 2018 – 2020

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger M. Lopez', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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