




March 18, 2019

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director 

Subject: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement No. L-8-0013 for the Rail 2 Rail Program with the North County Transit District and National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Overview

On July 16, 2018, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement between the North County Transit District and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for the Rail 2 Rail Program between Pacific Surfliner and COASTER services on the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor. This agreement will expire on July 31, 2019, and an extension is necessary to continue the program.

Recommendation

Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. L-8-0013 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency, the North County Transit District, and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for an additional term of one year through July 31, 2020, and increase the reimbursement rate to \$4.44 per boarding.

Discussion

The Rail 2 Rail (R2R) Program with the North County Transit District (NCTD) was initiated in August 2013 through a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), NCTD, and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) to allow for Pacific Surfliner and COASTER passengers with certain Amtrak or NCTD tickets to utilize either service within the limits of their ticket at no additional charge. The R2R Program continued in substantially the same format through 2017.

In July 2018, recognizing the ongoing benefits of the R2R Program, the LOSSAN Agency Board of Directors (Board) approved the terms for the continuance of the R2R Program with NCTD and authorized the

Managing Director to enter into an agreement to continue the R2R Program. The R2R Program currently provides for all Amtrak-operated Pacific Surfliner trains to accept valid COASTER Regionplus day passes, monthly, or 30-day passes and for all COASTER trains to accept valid Amtrak tickets, within the limits of the ticket, for all shared stations between Oceanside and San Diego.

The R2R Program provides improved passenger rail service along the LOSSAN rail corridor by allowing greater flexibility for rail passengers and making rail transit a more viable alternative. The R2R Program also provides mutual benefit for both the Pacific Surfliner and COASTER services by allowing NCTD to offer up to 24 additional daily trips to its passengers at a fraction of the cost to provide that service independently. Several of the Pacific Surfliner trains also provide service during time periods not currently serviced by COASTER trains.

Furthermore, the LOSSAN Agency is required, per the interagency transfer agreement with Caltrans, to maintain specific performance standards related to passenger miles, ridership, and farebox recovery. The R2R Program helps the Pacific Surfliner to achieve these performance standards by increasing ridership and providing a modest revenue increase. The R2R Program has proven to be a success, providing benefit to passengers and both services.

To ensure continued benefit to passengers, staff is recommending the continuance of the R2R Program with NCTD for an additional term of one year, through July 31, 2020, and to increase the reimbursement rate from \$4.42 to \$4.44 per boarding, which is consistent with the average COASTER revenue per boarding identified in NCTD's Fiscal Year 2017-18 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

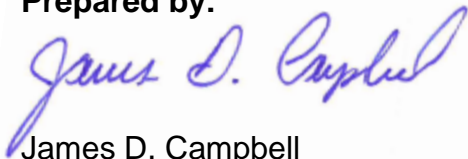
Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors approval for the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. L-8-0013 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency, the North County Transit District, and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for an additional 12 months through July 31, 2020, and to increase the reimbursement rate to \$4.44 per boarding for the Rail 2 Rail program between Pacific Surfliner and COASTER services on the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:



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