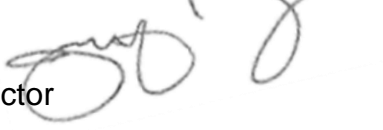




March 18, 2019

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director 

Subject: Cooperative Agreement for Continuance of the Rail 2 Rail Program with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Overview

The Rail 2 Rail Program provides significant benefits to passengers traveling on the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor by increasing the number of train options for travel along the corridor. The agreement to provide the Rail 2 Rail Program between the Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink services expires on June 30, 2019, and a new agreement is necessary to continue the program.

Recommendations

- A. Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Agreement No. L-9-0005 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency, Southern California Regional Rail Authority, and National Railroad Passenger Corporation to continue the Rail 2 Rail program for a term of one year through June 30, 2020 for a total contract value of \$2,400,000.
- B. Direct the Managing Director to continue to work with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and National Railroad Passenger Corporation to pursue a step-up fare program to facilitate cost-sharing of the program with Rail 2 Rail passengers.

Discussion

The Rail 2 Rail (R2R) Program was initiated in 2003 through a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). The R2R Program was intended to leverage available capacity on the Pacific Surfliner trains for the mutual benefit of both

Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner passengers. The R2R Program has continued in substantially the same format, with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) assuming administrative responsibility in 2015.

The R2R Program with Metrolink currently provides for all Amtrak-operated Pacific Surfliner trains to accept valid monthly Metrolink tickets, and for all Metrolink trains to accept valid monthly Amtrak tickets within the limits of the tickets, subject to certain restrictions and blackout dates. The R2R Program also allows for Pacific Surfliner trains to accept all valid Metrolink fare media between Los Angeles Union Station and the Burbank Airport – South station, providing additional options for travelers who want to take the train to and from Burbank Airport instead of renting a car.

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 Metrolink by allowing Metrolink to offer up to 24 additional daily trips to its passengers at a fraction of the cost to provide that service independently. These additional Pacific Surfliner trains serve as express trains along the corridor and provide service in currently unserved timeslots, requiring minimal financial contribution from Metrolink member agencies. The R2R Program benefits the Pacific Surfliner 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.

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 provides incremental increases in ridership, fare revenue, and overall passenger miles. These increases are beneficial in maintaining the performance standards of the Pacific Surfliner service and allow for cross-promotion between the services. The R2R Program is consistent with the draft LOSSAN Agency Business Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 (Business Plan), providing improved service and connectivity along the LOSSAN rail corridor.

The current R2R Program agreement expires on June 30, 2019. Based on the performance of the R2R Program to date and the consideration of the program in the draft Business Plan, LOSSAN Agency staff recommends the continuance of this program for a term of one year, through June 30, 2020. A reimbursement rate of \$7.00 per boarding is recommended with a contract value of \$2,400,000, which is consistent with the draft FY 2019-20 Metrolink budget.

To continue the development of options for the long-term continuance of the R2R Program and also to ensure continued integration efforts on the LOSSAN rail corridor, LOSSAN Agency staff will continue discussions with Metrolink and Amtrak to pursue the development of a mobile-based or similar option for a step-up fare program for the R2R Program. This program will facilitate cost sharing by off-setting some of the reimbursement costs paid by Metrolink member agencies through an adjusted ticket price paid by those passengers who choose to participate in the R2R Program. It is envisioned that this proposed step-up program will also assist with managing the passenger loads on certain peak-period trains.

LOSSAN Agency staff, working in coordination with Metrolink and Amtrak, has developed a draft cooperative agreement consistent with the terms above for the continuance of the R2R Program.

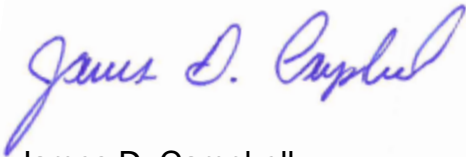
Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors approval for the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. L-9-0005 to continue the Rail 2 Rail Program for a term of one year, through June 30, 2020 for a total contract value of \$2,400,000. Staff will continue to work with Metrolink and Amtrak to pursue the development of a mobile based or similar option for a step-up fare program to help facilitate cost-sharing of the Rail 2 Rail Program

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:



James D. Campbell
Deputy Managing Director
(714) 560-5390