



MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting

Call to Order

The September 16, 2019 Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) was called to order by Chairman Murray at 11:20 a.m., at the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Headquarters, Board Room – Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

Chairman Murray announced that several of the Directors would participate in today's meeting via teleconferencing, and all votes would be taken by roll call.

Directors Present: Al Murray, Chairman
 Dana Reed, Vice Chairman
 Jewel Edson, NCTD (teleconference)
 John Fasana, Metro
 Caylin Frank, SDMTS (teleconference)
 Gregg Hart, SBCAG (teleconference)
 Ellie Haviland, SANDAG
 Bryan MacDonald, VCTC (teleconference)
 Tim Shaw, OCTA
 Fred Strong, SLOCOG
 Jess Talamantes, Metro (teleconference)
 Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, Ex-Officio
 Alan D. Wapner, SCAG, Ex -Officio (teleconference)

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director
 Olga Prado, LOSSAN Agency Clerk of the Board
 Cassie Trapesonian, Assistant General Counsel

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Haviland.

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Special Calendar

There were no Special Calendar Matters.

Consent Calendar (Items 2 through 6)

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Reed, seconded by Director Strong, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to approve the minutes of the LOSSAN Board of Directors meeting of July 15, 2019.

3. Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 Business Plan and Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget Update

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Reed, seconded by Director Strong, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to receive and file as an information item.

4. Approval to Release Request for Proposals for Pacific Surfliner Videography and Photography Services

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Reed, seconded by Director Strong, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to:

- A. Approve the proposed evaluation criteria and weightings for Request for Proposals 9-1432 for selection of a consultant to provide videography and photography services for the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency.
- B. Approve the release of Request for Proposals 9-1432 for Pacific Surfliner videography and photography services for the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency for a one-year initial term with two, two-year option terms.

5. Approval to Release Request for Proposals for Pacific Surfliner Creative Services

This item was pulled by Director Talamantes who inquired what the original contract terms included, which firm holds the contract, contractor, and why it was determined not to exercise the option years in the current contract.

Emilia Doerr, Marketing & Communications Officer, responded that the contract was originally awarded to Civilian, Inc. Ms. Doerr added that the LOSSAN Agency is restructuring its contracts for a more efficient scope focusing on creative services, and to utilize more of its in-house marketing capabilities.

Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director, stated that the procurement is open and fully competitive for qualified firms to bid. Ms. Bergener added that when staff previously procured services for this agenda item and for Item 4 on today's agenda, both services were combined, and it has now been determined that it is better to break these efforts apart. She added that it was entirely possible that the same firm could bid on both efforts and be successful, or there could be two different firms selected for each of these efforts.

A motion was made by Director Talamantes, seconded by Chairman Murray, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to:

- A. Approve the proposed evaluation criteria and weightings for Request for Proposals 9-1542 for the selection of a consultant to provide creative services for the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency.
- B. Approve the release of Request for Proposals 9-1542 for creative services for the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency for a one-year initial term with two, two-year option terms.

6. Business Class Refresh Project - State Rail Assistance Program Funding

This item was pulled by Chairman Murray who inquired if staff could conduct a customer service survey to help measure the refresh project's success. Chairman Murray added that he was very optimistic that the business class refresh project will be very productive, and the survey will help the Board evaluate this project.

Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director, stated that the request will be taken as direction and staff will return to the Board with the full schedule for the business class upgrade and refresh project.

6. (Continued)

Director Hart echoed Chairman Murray's idea about the customer service survey. He asked Ms. Bergener to bring a future agenda item to the Board to provide a broader overview of the LOSSAN Agency's strategic plan for the use of State Rail Assistance (SRA) formula funds.

Ms. Bergener responded that staff will bring forward to the Board, an agenda item to highlight where the SRA and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds are anticipated to be programmed. Ms. Bergener added that staff provides updates on the overall program to the State as required by those funding sources and by the LOSSAN Agency's interagency transfer agreement.

A motion was made by Chairman Murray, seconded by Vice Chairman Reed, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to:

- A. Approve the use of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 State Rail Assistance formula funds for the business class refresh project.
- B. Authorize the managing director to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements to facilitate the utilization of State Rail Assistance funding as described herein.

Regular Calendar

7. Corridor Optimization Update and Additional Scope

Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director, provided opening comments and introduced Roger M. Lopez, Manager of Planning and Analysis. Ms. Bergener stated that there are several tasks under the optimization effort that are interrelated, some will feed into the forthcoming TIRCP call for projects, and some are intended to provide immediate operating improvements along the corridor. Ms. Bergener added that this item's components and Item 8's on the agenda are related.

Mr. Lopez provided an update on the current status of the LOSSAN Agency's optimization effort as follows:

- The optimization effort was kicked-off in early February and was headed by a team from Deutsche Bahn Engineering & Consulting USA, Inc.
- The focus of this effort is the development of operating plans that will reflect the planned future service levels of the Pacific Surfliner, and included in that, are reviews of the capital investments that will be necessary to implement those service expansions.

7. (Continued)

- A schedule was developed to accelerate the effort to approximately 18 - 20 months.
- The acceleration was necessary given the role that the deliverables will play, especially as it relates to capital investments.
- There are five main tasks as part of the optimization effort, and a brief update on the status of each task and percentage of completion was provided.
- LOSSAN Agency staff was approached by its partners at the North County Transit District (NCTD) about the possibility of incorporating additional scope elements into the existing optimization effort.
- The goal for NCTD is to identify the preferred service alternative with the intent of increasing SPRINTER service that would allow improved connectivity between SPRINTER and the wider LOSSAN network, and then develop estimates on the capital projects that will be necessary to implement those increased service levels.
- The scope addition was at the request of a stakeholder, and to ensure full transparency, the amendment is being brought before the Board for approval.
- The scope is consistent with the overall goals of Tasks 3 and 4, and the time that NCTD will save by incorporating it into the LOSSAN Agency's efforts will allow NCTD to use the deliverables as it develops its own TIRCP applications.

A discussion ensued as follows:

- Director Talamantes offered the City of Burbank as a potential site for a stakeholder engagement meeting.
- Director Edson thanked everyone on behalf of NCTD for considering this item and felt this is a win-win situation for everyone.
- Director Hart also offered a location in Santa Barbara as a potential site for a stakeholder outreach meeting as there is a lot of interest in this optimization effort in the central coast area.
- Vice Chairman Reed asked if staff could provide the Board assurance that it is receiving complete cooperation from all the sources.
- Ms. Bergener responded that LOSSAN Agency staff held separate meetings with the host railroads to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Staff has now started to schedule subsequent meetings with the rest of the member agencies and stakeholders, and at this point, is receiving full cooperation.
- Director Haviland supports this item and expressed her concerns about adding elements to the scope, contracting the project time frame, and ensuring that all tasks are done on time. She also inquired if the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has been contacted and if a schedule is being worked on.

7. (Continued)

- Ms. Bergener responded that LOSSAN Agency staff had an initial discussion regarding the TIRCP process with the Technical Advisory Committee at its last meeting, and NCTD hosted a meeting last week with staff from various agencies to discuss specific concepts with respect to capital projects. She added that LOSSAN Agency staff is now working on setting up the additional meetings.
- Ms. Bergener asked for support from the Board and the member agencies to provide staff the projects that each anticipates submitting to the TIRCP.

A motion was made by Chairman Murray, seconded by Director Strong, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 10-0, to:

- A. Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute an Amendment to Agreement No. L-8-0017 between the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Deutsche Bahn Engineering & Consulting USA, Inc., in the amount of \$86,026, for additional scope associated with performing corridor optimization services.
- B. Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute an Agreement with North County Transit District for the reimbursement of the costs associated with the additional scope.

8. Pacific Surfliner On-Time Performance Analysis

Roger M. Lopez, Manager, Planning and Analysis, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item as follows:

- Average Endpoint On-Time Performance (OTP) – Systemwide;
- Average Endpoint OTP: Detail by Train;
- Delay Analysis: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018-19, Quarter 3 (Q3) Year over Year;
- Delay Analysis FFY Q3 – Distribution by Host
- Initial Terminal Performance: FFY Q3;
- Delay Distribution – By Location;
- Train 777 – Delay Analysis;
- Conclusions – Q3; and
- Questions.

8. (Continued)

A discussion ensued as follows:

- Clarification on Slide 7 of the PowerPoint (Delay Distribution – By Location), and the cause for the increase in delay between the City of Fullerton and the Los Angeles County line was due to two fires in the BNSF Railway territory during this reporting period.
- The significant increase in delays between Old Town San Diego and Solana Beach is due to ongoing construction. Each schedule change is done in October and April of each year and staff tries to account for what is known at that point and makes schedule adjustments as needed.
- Inquiry as to when is it decided to eliminate a “poor performing” train.
- There are some trains that have poor OTP but generate good ridership and for those, staff looks for opportunities to improve the schedule, particularly if the issue is short-term because of construction.
- As it relates to trains 774, 777, and 785, which travel beyond the limits of Los Angeles, staff is working on ways to improve the OTP of those trains, such as performing en route cleaning or fueling in a different way to allow the train to turn around faster.
- The LOSSAN Agency is not at a place where it would terminate any of these trains but does look through the biannual scheduling process for every opportunity to improve OTP.
- Late train delays are very difficult for commuters on trains 792 and 759 on the north end of the corridor as these can often be more than an hour late, which causes a catastrophic effect on those commuters’ ability to get to work.
- Expressed appreciation to staff for the deep analysis of the delay issues in the north end of the corridor, and for working with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) on the signal issues which are the primary cause for the delays.

No action was taken on this receive and file information item.

9. Pacific Surfliner Ridership Trend Analysis

Roger M. Lopez, Manager, Planning and Analysis, provided a presentation on the Pacific Surfliner Ridership trend analysis as follows:

- In the fall of 2018, an initial analysis of the impacts of schedule changes associated with the implementation of peak-period service was performed.
- Since April of 2018, on average, the Pacific Surfliner has lost approximately 7.5 percent or roughly 19,000 riders per month. The decline in the Metrolink Rail 2 Rail ridership has nearly doubled, which indicates that the train adjustments are impacting both morning and evening commuters.

9. (Continued)

- Revenue has fared somewhat better, only losing on average less than half a percent, primarily due to items like the expanded business class, refresh of the Café car offerings, and the changes to the fare structure.
- The overall goal of the analysis was to see where ridership is being lost, try to isolate the reasons why some trains have challenges, and to identify ways to make changes moving forward.
- The impact to ridership throughout the year was not linear. The schedule adjustments in April 2018 had impacts on the overall system ridership; however, in October 2018, the ridership loss increased significantly following the schedule changes.
- Southbound and northbound average monthly ridership by train was provided.
- There will be additional schedule changes in October 2019 and the implementation of the 13th roundtrip. Staff will continue to monitor the performance as changes are implemented and will update the Board before the April 2020 schedule change about additional findings.

A discussion ensued as follows:

- LOSSAN Agency staff considers the Coast Starlight schedule as adjustments are made to Pacific Surfliner schedules and tries to ensure that as new or modified service is introduced, a space between those train connections is created.
- The LOSSAN Agency's Del Mar Races and Comic-Con International season is the agency's busiest time of the summer season. There is a slight dip in ridership when school starts, which picks up again around the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The 13th roundtrip will only travel between San Diego and Los Angeles and will create another option, making transit in general a more viable option for riders.
- Staff continues its ongoing efforts with UPRR to initiate another roundtrip north of Los Angeles. This would include one to Goleta and the second to San Luis Obispo.
- Positive conversations with UPRR and at this point, UPRR has agreed to a program of projects that would enable the LOSSAN Agency to operate the two additional roundtrips. Staff is currently working with UPRR on the schedule for the implementation of those elements.
- At this point, there is no time frame related to the re-creation of the Coast Daylight. Staff has not lost sight of this effort, continues to have discussions, and is working closely with San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) staff.

9. (Continued)

- Staff is currently focusing on the reinstatement of the bifurcated trains, is working to implement the 13th roundtrip in October 2019, and a potential 14th roundtrip in April 2020.

No action was taken on this receive and file information item.

10. Quarterly Marketing Update

Emilia Doerr, Marketing & Communications Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item as follows:

- Performance Summary;
- Pacific Surfliner Market Café;
- KDOC-TV Summer of Fun Promo (a short promotional video clip was shown);
- Rail Safety;
- Major League Baseball (a short promotional audio clip was played);
- Launch of New PacificSurfliner.com;
- Comic-Con & Del Mar Racing;
- Customer Engagement; and
- Looking Ahead;

A discussion ensued as follows:

- Vice Chairman Reed inquired if a connectivity agreement with Disneyland existed and if it was being marketed.
- The LOSSAN Agency has an ongoing promotion with Disneyland through the end of 2019 that includes a discount on the Disneyland Theme Park admission with an Amtrak reservation.
- In addition to the partnership with Disneyland, a Transit Transfer Program is still in place with OCTA and with the Anaheim Resort Transportation, which takes passengers directly from the train station to the theme park.
- The Transit Transfer Program is highlighted on the website and it is performing well.

No action was taken on this receive and file information item.

Discussion Items

11. Managing Director's Report

Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director, reported on the following:

- TIRCP Guidelines:
 - The guidelines were released on Friday, September 13th, and are set to walk agencies through the issuance and award of a five-year program that spans from 2020-2025.
 - The guidelines are in the comment period now through October 15th.
 - There will be workshops held in Southern California on November 5th and 6th, and the project applications are due January 16th.
 - The notice of award will be provided in April 1, 2020, which is also the deadline for the LOSSAN Agency to submit its annual business plan for approval.

- Tomorrow, Ms. Bergener and staff will travel to Hartford, CT, to attend the quarterly States-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail committee meetings where she currently serves as Chair.

Several topics will be discussed, including the LOSSAN Agency bylaws, status of equipment purchases, and other relevant information, and a report out to the Board will be provided as part of the next weekly report.

- Today's meeting location change was due to a necessary rail closure (bus bridge), and the October LOSSAN Agency Board meeting will now take place in Oxnard.
- Staff is working toward the implementation of the 13th roundtrip, which is scheduled to take place with the October schedule change.
- Staff is also initiating discussions with Amtrak and the host railroads for a 14th roundtrip, and the goal is to implement the 14th roundtrip in April 2020.
- Aside from some unplanned delays, the intercity service has performed as was expected during the bus bridge.
- Ms. Bergener will be a panelist at the annual Mobility 21 Transportation Summit next week to discuss alternative fuels, and will take the opportunity to talk about alternative fuel engines as has been recently discussed with the State's executive leadership.

11. (Continued)

- As it relates to the potential sea level rise and the viability of the LOSSAN corridor, various owners on the corridor are having discussions or performing studies, including NCTD, OCTA, and Metrolink.
- LOSSAN Agency staff just started sea level rise discussions with UPRR for its portion of the corridor. The LOSSAN Agency does not have its own independent effort but is coordinating and is a stakeholder in each of the aforementioned efforts. Santa Barbara would be under the jurisdiction of UPRR.
- Amtrak was asked to model the 14th roundtrip as a complete roundtrip from San Diego to San Luis Obispo. This will be contingent upon the conclusion of discussions with UPRR about the sequencing of introducing new service and the implementation of capital projects.

12. Board Members' Report

Director Hart reported that the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Traffic Solutions Division hosted events to promote train ridership, and there were approximately 300 attendees. SBCAG staff provided tutorials to attendees and the event was successfully covered by local media. In the future, SBCAG may include an agenda item for a LOSSAN Agency Board meeting to share the results of the events, as well to present on service work that SBCAG has been doing about train service.

Director Gradinger reported that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has a new Director, Toks Omishakin, who is expected to arrive in Sacramento in October. In addition, Secretary David Kim was confirmed, 38-0, by the State Senate last Wednesday as Caltrans' Secretary of Transportation.

Director Haviland reported that later this month, the SANDAG Board will be asked to approve several items of interest to the LOSSAN Agency Board. One of the items is funding for additional COASTER trains in order to add additional commuter service, and the other is a new regional rail advanced planning study along the LOSSAN corridor in San Diego.

Director Strong reported that SLOCOG, working as the managing agency to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, is moving ahead with UPRR and the State on extending service to San Jose.



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12. (Continued)

Director Strong added that in his other capacities with various transportation agencies, he has been working closely with Go Rail and there have been expressed concerns that the chemical industry is trying to amend the Staggers Rail Act of 1980 and want the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to take over scheduling and rates for all freight rail lines and to allow, without restriction, the parking of hazardous chemical tank cars anywhere along the rails in California. Director Strong urged the Board to join Go Rail in trying to get the FRA to not approve the changes.

Chairman Murray thanked everyone for adjusting their schedule for today's Board meeting location due to the last minute rail closures.

13. Closed Session

There was no Closed Session scheduled.

14. Adjournment

The meeting of the LOSSAN Agency's Board adjourned at 12:38 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Board will be held:

Monday, October 21, 2019

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Gold Coast Transit District

Board Room

1901 Auto Center Drive

Oxnard, CA 93036

ATTEST:

Al Murray
LOSSAN Chairman

Olga Prado
LOSSAN Clerk of the Board