




**November 7, 2019**

**To:** Members of the Technical Advisory Committee

**From:** Jennifer L. Bergener, Managing Director 

**Subject:** Update on the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Funded Projects and Layover Facility Expansions

### **Overview**

A report on the progress of the capital projects along the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties that were funded by the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant award and the ongoing efforts to expand the Pacific Surfliner layover facilities in San Diego, Goleta, and San Luis Obispo, is presented for consideration.

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file as an information item.

### **Background**

In April 2018, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) awarded approximately \$148 million of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds to the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) for capital improvements along the rail corridor in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties to design and construct additional track capacity, improve station access, upgrade signal and communications, expand the layover facility in the City of Goleta, and provide capitalized access incentives to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to improve reliability and on-time performance (OTP).

Additionally, CalSTA approved the \$300,000 requested in the LOSSAN Agency fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 budget for a San Diego County Layover and Maintenance Facility Study to evaluate potential locations for a new layover and maintenance facility for the Pacific Surfliner in San Diego.

In 2018, the California Department of Transportation Division of Rail and Mass Transportation (Caltrans DRMT) also programmed \$12.5 million in State Transportation Improvement Program funds to advance the Central Coast Layover

Facility (CCLF) Expansion project in San Luis Obispo through project approval and environmental clearance, design, and construction.

To prepare the Project Report and Environmental Documentation (PR/ED) for the CCLF Expansion Project and to initiate the San Diego County Layover and Maintenance Facility Study, consultant contracts were awarded in January 2019 and February 2019, respectively. In March 2019, the LOSSAN Agency Board of Directors (Board) authorized the Managing Director to enter into an agreement with Amtrak to perform the design of the expanded layover facility in the City of Goleta.

### ***Discussion***

Efforts are progressing to identify a location for a new San Diego County Layover and Maintenance Facility and to expand the existing layover facility in San Luis Obispo. In addition, there has been ongoing coordination with the UPRR to expand Pacific Surfliner service along the LOSSAN rail corridor in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

### **Layover Facility Expansions**

Since the San Diego County Layover and Maintenance Facility Study kicked-off in April 2019, two Project Development Team meetings have been held in San Diego with staff participating from San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, San Diego Association of Governments, North County Transit District, Amtrak, Caltrans DRMT and the BNSF Railway. These meetings focused on discussing previously considered and new possible options for locations to construct the new layover and maintenance facility and to discuss the initial screening of identified locations to reduce the list of options down to six to move forward with in a more robust analysis and evaluation.

The Goleta Layover Facility Expansion project is adjacent to the Goleta Station Improvement project, which is being led by the City of Goleta, and coordination between the two projects is important to ensure compatibility with how the projects are being designed. Coordination with the City of Goleta has been delayed due to the length of time it has taken to reach consensus with Amtrak on the terms of an agreement to design the expanded layover facility. Now that consensus has been reached, the project will be advanced.

The CCLF Expansion project is proceeding with the alternative analysis task of the PR/ED effort, which began in May 2019. A stakeholder coordination meeting was held July 2, 2019 in San Luis Obispo with staff participating from Amtrak, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and the City of San Luis Obispo to present an overview of the project and objectives, engage in a discussion on assumptions and design approach, and identify possible opportunities and constraints for the preliminary locations presented.

A programming workshop was also held with Amtrak in early October to discuss the space needs required for the ultimate build out of the proposed facility. UPRR has indicated a willingness to also participate to better understand the sites under consideration and the site requirements and LOSSAN Agency staff are looking to schedule this meeting in the coming weeks.

Capital Improvements on the UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision

The LOSSAN Agency's 2018 TIRCP grant award included funding to address current and future constraints on the northern section of the LOSSAN rail corridor in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties by constructing additional double track and siding extensions, improving stations, upgrading signals and switches, and providing capitalized access incentives to the UPRR for improved Pacific Surfliner reliability and OTP.

In July 2019, UPRR staff met with LOSSAN Agency staff to present the results of the capacity modeling they had performed to evaluate the infrastructure improvements necessary to support additional service to Goleta and San Luis Obispo. LOSSAN Agency staff is currently coordinating with UPRR on identifying specific slots for expanded service north to San Luis Obispo in 2020 and prioritizing the projects identified through the UPRR modeling effort to support this goal. While the awarded TIRCP funds are enough to address the capital improvements necessary to operate an additional roundtrip, further funding will still be needed to implement the complete program of projects identified by UPRR. LOSSAN Agency staff will continue to work with Caltrans DRMT, CalSTA, UPRR and our member agencies going forward to identify additional funding sources to implement these projects.

***Summary***

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency was awarded approximately \$148 million of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds in 2018 to implement enhancements to the rail corridor between Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo. Additionally, funding was approved or programmed to study, and design expanded layover facilities in San Diego, Goleta, and San Luis Obispo. The San Diego County Layover and Maintenance Facility Study and the Central Coast Layover Expansion Project in San Luis Obispo continue to progress according to schedule since beginning in April and May 2019, respectively. The Goleta Layover Facility Expansion project was delayed due to the length of time it took to reach agreement with Amtrak on the terms of an agreement to design the expanded layover facility. Staff has been coordinating with the Union Pacific Railroad on identifying slots for expanding service north to San Luis Obispo in 2020 and prioritizing the projects identified through the Union Pacific modeling effort to support this goal.

***Attachment***

- A. Update Report on TIRCP Funded Projects and Layover Facility Expansions

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