




**May 18, 2020**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors

**From:** Donna DeMartino, Managing Director 

**Subject:** Amendment to Cooperative Agreement No. L-9-0005 for 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 current Rail 2 Rail Program agreement between the Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink services expires on June 30, 2020, and an amendment to the agreement is necessary to continue the program.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to 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 three months through September 30, 2020 and to maintain the maximum obligation 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 an alternate program to facilitate cost-sharing of the Rail 2 Rail program with 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. Since initiated, the R2R Program has continued in substantially the same form, 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. 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.

Current statewide and regional policies and guidelines have limited travel for many as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in a significant reduction in both Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner services. During this unprecedented time, the R2R Program continues to provide mutual benefit for both the Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink by allowing Metrolink to offer additional daily trips to its passengers at a fraction of the cost to provide that service independently. These additional Pacific Surfliner trains provide service in currently unserved timeslots, requiring minimal financial contribution from Metrolink member agencies. Further, the R2R Program continues to benefit the Pacific Surfliner by increasing ridership and providing a modest revenue increase.

The current R2R Program agreement with Metrolink expires on June 30, 2020. 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 three months, through September 30, 2020, maintaining the existing reimbursement rate of \$7.00 per passenger and the total not to exceed value of \$2,400,000, which has sufficient capacity remaining to continue through September 2020. At this time, Metrolink has not yet released a draft FY 2020-21 budget and will be operating under a continuing resolution through September 2020. LOSSAN Agency staff will continue to coordinate with Metrolink staff as they develop their FY 2020-21 budget and will return to the Board with an amendment to this agreement that reflects a funding level consistent with the approved FY 2020-21 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 an alternate program for the R2R Program.

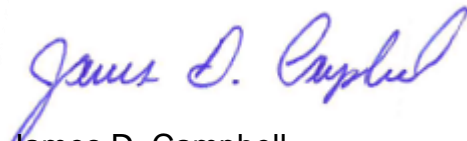
***Summary***

Staff requests Board of Directors approval for the Managing Director to negotiate and execute an Amendment to Cooperative Agreement No. L-9-0005 to continue the Rail 2 Rail Program for a term of three months, through September 30, 2020. Staff will continue to coordinate with Metrolink as they develop their FY 2020-21 budget and will return to the Board with an amendment to this agreement that reflects a funding level consistent with the approved Metrolink FY 2020-21 budget. Staff will also continue to work with Metrolink and Amtrak to pursue the development of an alternate fare program to facilitate cost-sharing of the Rail 2 Rail Program

***Attachment***

None.

**Prepared by:**



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