



**June 15, 2020**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors  
*Donna DeMartino*  
**From:** Donna DeMartino, 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, 2020, and an extension is necessary to continue the program.

### **Recommendations**

- A. Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 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 to extend the term of the agreement for an additional two months, through September 30, 2020, and decrease the reimbursement rate to \$4.03 per boarding.
- B. Direct the Managing Director to continue to work with the North County Transit District and National Railroad Passenger Corporation to pursue the development of an alternate program for the Rail 2 Rail Program.

### **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 use 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 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (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 Region plus 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. 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 COASTER and Pacific Surfliner services. During this unprecedented time, the R2R Program continues to provide mutual benefit for both the Pacific Surfliner and NCTD by allowing NCTD to offer 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.

To ensure continued benefit to passengers, staff recommends the continuance of the R2R Program with NCTD for an additional term of two months, through September 30, 2020, to align this agreement with the end of the federal fiscal year and the R2R agreement with Metrolink, and to decrease the reimbursement rate from \$4.44 to \$4.03 per boarding, consistent with the average COASTER revenue per passenger identified in NCTD's Fiscal Year 2018-19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

To ensure continued integration efforts on the LOSSAN rail corridor, LOSSAN Agency staff will schedule discussions in late June 2020 with NCTD and Amtrak to pursue the development of an alternate program for the R2R Program.

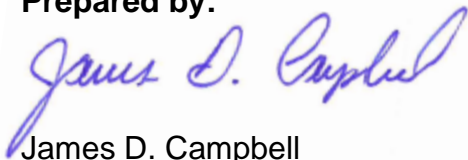
***Summary***

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 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 two months through September 30, 2020, and to decrease the reimbursement rate to \$4.03 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. Staff will also continue to work with the North County Transit District and Amtrak to pursue the development of an alternate program for the Rail 2 Rail Program.

***Attachment***

- A. North County Transit District and National Railroad Passenger Corporation Continuation of the Rail 2 Rail Program Cooperative Agreement No. L-8-0013 Fact Sheet

**Prepared by:**



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