



Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JULY 21, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on July 21, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. via TEAMS conference call.

Committee members in attendance:

Via Teleconference:

Anna Devers, SLOCOG
Heather Miller, VCTC
Martin Erickson, VCTC
Jay Fuhrman, LA Metro
Megan LeMaster, OCTA
Alexis Murillo-Felix, OCTA
Sheldon Peterson, RCTC
Damon Blythe, NCTD
Danny Veeh, SANDAG
Brent Boyd, MTS
Steven Fox, SCAG
Todd McIntyre, SCRRA
Tamara Noel, BNSF
Cynthia Stone, BNSF
Anthony Serna, CALTRANS
Scott Spaulding, SBCAG
Victor Stone, UPRR

Welcome and Introductions

The July 21, 2020, LOSSAN Agency TAC meeting was called to order by Mr. James Campbell, LOSSAN Program Manager, who welcomed the LOSSAN TAC to the TEAMS conference call. Mr. Campbell asked the participants over the teleconference line for introductions.

1. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved the May 2020 meeting minutes.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved the June 2020 meeting minutes.

REGULAR CALENDAR

There were no Regular Calendar matters.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Update

Mr. Jason Jewel (LOSSAN) provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget. The California State Transportation Agency approved the administrative and marketing funding, which was based on the approved business plan submitted back on May 1, 2020. The operations funding has not been approved yet, due to a pending revised Amtrak forecast operating budget. A brief explanation on current grants and bills was given as well.

A brief discussion ensued regarding concerns on dipping into the emergency funds, if needed. Mr. Jewell confirmed he sees no concerns to utilize emergency funds, due to rollover funds from other areas and federal CARES Act funding. There is an anticipation of federal funding also being provided in the next fiscal year. There was no further discussion.

5. Pacific Surfliner Thruway Bus Services Performance and Possible Operational Adjustments

Mr. Roger Lopez (LOSSAN) provided an update on the performance of the Pacific Surfliner thruway bus routes and discussed their performance within the past three fiscal years. Mr. Lopez also shared ridership numbers prior to COVID-19, as well as proposed service adjustments on different routes as a potential measure to reduce overall operating costs to help mitigate the loss in revenue due to the significant impact to ridership caused by the pandemic.

A brief discussion ensued regarding more clarification on the ridership and revenue.

Another discussion ensued regarding the cost doubling within the past three fiscal years on certain routes. Mr. Lopez explained there hasn't been an adequate answer, but LOSSAN is pushing for a response and looking into cost-saving measures, as well as getting a better handle on the costs, if possible.

Mr. Alan Miller, Caltrans, shared some more information on the history of different routes and their financial impacts.

A discussion ensued on other routes and possible elimination of certain stops as a way to help reduce overall operating costs.

**6. Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Update
Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Update**

Mr. Campbell (LOSSAN) informed the committee that the LOSSAN Agency received notification on July 9th from Union Pacific that the agreement to design and construct Capital Improvements along the Santa Barbara subdivision had been fully executed and that the projects identified in the agreement were now moving forward.

Mr. Campbell shared there was a 3-day virtual design workshop for the Central Coast Layover Facility project in San Luis Obispo. The meeting was to obtain input from the major stakeholders on a preferred layout and configuration of the facility and that the consultant could move forward with into preliminary engineering.

Mr. Campbell also mentioned that staff participated in the LOSSAN regional rail corridor working group in San Diego County, created by California Secretary of Transportation David Kim for the purpose of examining climate change, resiliency issues, and developing future plans for the LOSSAN rail corridor in San Diego County, specifically the Del Mar Bluffs, which have experienced and continue to be vulnerable to major erosion, which threatens the stability of the overall corridor.

7. Technical Advisory Committee Member's Report

Mr. Brent Boyd, MTS, mentioned they are now at 98 percent of rail service and additional service in September to help with social distancing.

Mr. Danny Veeh, SANDAG, mentioned they opened 2.6 miles of double track in the City of San Diego and now creates a continuous 14 miles of double track from Santa Fe Depot to Miramar Hill.

Mr. Damon Blythe, NCTD, re-mentioned the SANDAG project is finished and will open opportunity to run more trains. COASTER has had a 91 percent ridership loss, which had an estimated 5,000 passengers drop to approximately 500 a day.

Mr. Sheldon Peterson, RCTC, mentioned they are not pursuing the special events training in Indio.

Mr. Jay Fuhrman, LA Metro, mentioned an upcoming meeting with Metrolink and Amtrak to work on integrating the fair reciprocity, so that that when you have a Surfliner ticket, you'll be able to get through the Metro gates for rail system similar to how Metro can get through our gates using the optical reader.

Ms. Heather Miller, VCTC, shared updates on the Rice Avenue Grade Separation project, as well as a Metrolink Saturday service train that will begin in April 2021 that Metro is helping with on the Ventura Line. Ms. Miller also mentioned a transportation emergency preparedness plan that is being coordinated with SBCAG and VCTC.

Mr. Vic Stone, Union Pacific, mentioned they are beginning work on their first bridge project at Narlon. Will keep us posted with updates at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held on:

Thursday, September 3, 2020
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.