



September 21, 2020

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Donna DeMartino, Managing Director *Donna DeMartino*

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

On March 18, 2019, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors approved an agreement between the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for the Rail 2 Rail Program between Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink passenger rail services on the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo rail corridor for a period of one year, through June 30, 2020. This agreement was subsequently extended through September 30, 2020. Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve an amendment to extend the existing agreement through June 30, 2021, to allow for continuity of transportation options and time to pursue the development of an alternate program for the Rail 2 Rail Program.

Recommendation

Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative 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 extend the contract term for a period of nine months through June 30, 2021, and increase the total contract value in the amount of \$1,854,000, for a total contract value of up to \$4,254,000.

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. The R2R Program has continued in substantially the same format, when the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) assumed 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 and blackout dates. 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 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in a significant reduction in both Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner ridership and services. During this unprecedented time, the R2R Program continues to provide mutual benefit for both the Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink by allowing additional daily trips to passengers at a fraction of the cost to provide the 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic by contributing approximately eight percent of total daily ridership and providing a modest revenue increase.

The current R2R Program agreement expires on September 30, 2020. Based on the performance of the R2R Program to date, consideration of the program in the Business Plan, and the mutual benefit the program is continuing to provide to passengers by offering additional travel options during the COVID-19 pandemic, LOSSAN Agency staff recommends the continuance of this program for a term of nine months, through June 30, 2021. The reimbursement rate is recommended to remain at \$7.00 per boarding with an annual cap of \$1,854,000 between October 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This is consistent with the draft Metrolink fiscal year 2020-21 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 the discussions that have been initiated 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 Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. L-9-0005 between LOSSAN Agency, Metrolink, and Amtrak to extend the Rail 2 Rail Program for a period of nine months through June 30, 2021, and to increase the total contract value by up to \$1,854,000, for a total contract value of \$4,254,000.

Attachment

- A. Southern California Regional Rail Authority and National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Cooperative Agreement No. L-9-0005 Fact Sheet

Prepared by:



James D. Campbell
Manager of Programs
(714) 560-5390