



## 2021 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program

**ATTACHMENT B**

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2021:**

- **Maximize the share of long-term, sustainable funding sources to support passenger rail operations and capital projects in the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor, including funds made available by the federal rail title and ensuring the continued eligibility for the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) to compete for state funding, such as funding provided by SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) and the cap-and-trade program.**
- **Support funding and policy flexibilities that facilitate the LOSSAN Agency's ability to provide intercity rail service during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and also encourage ridership post-pandemic.**
- **Support efforts to further enhance connectivity of regional and intercity rail and local transit services within LOSSAN rail corridor.**
- **Continue to study and advance infrastructure and service improvement projects and programs.**

### **I. SECURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

- a) Support efforts to pursue and maximize the LOSSAN Agency's share of stable, recurring sources of operating and capital funding to support intercity rail operations, equipment and safety needs, and LOSSAN Agency Priority Projects.
- b) Support funding and policy flexibilities that facilitate the LOSSAN Agency's ability to provide intercity rail service during the COVID-19 pandemic and also encourage ridership post-pandemic.
- c) Support member agency grant funding requests consistent with the LOSSAN Agency's Legislative Program and annual Business Plan and permit the LOSSAN Chairman or the Managing Director to sign letters of support.
- d) Support the protection of existing revenues and the generation of new revenue sources; maximize flexibility in use of federal and state funds, including emerging funding programs. Advocate for intercity rail as an eligible recipient of any new revenue sources.
- e) Support efforts to lower the current two-thirds voter requirement for special purpose taxes that provide for transportation and quality of life improvements.
- f) Support efforts to apply for the use of SB 1 and cap-and-trade funding for LOSSAN Agency priority projects, advocating for intercity rail as an eligible recipient, flexibility in revenue use and a streamlined allocation process.
- g) Secure emergency preparedness funds through any grant program that funds safety and security activities in order to complete more rail system and passenger protection projects.
- h) Support the development of future federal rail capital investment programs.
- i) Support efforts to apply for federal rail capital matching program funds, including Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act annual appropriations, and Infrastructure For Rebuilding America grants for LOSSAN Agency priority projects.
- j) Oppose efforts to minimize or reduce the funding commitments that support passenger rail services along the LOSSAN rail corridor.
- k) Support mechanisms and funding providing for the implementation of the LOSSAN rail corridor wide Strategic Implementation Plan, California State Rail Plan, and other rail improvement plans.



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### II. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

- a) Support surface transportation legislation that facilitates adequate funding levels, transit and rail investments, and expedited federal actions.
- b) Support equitable policies in the delivery of passenger rail services, projects, and programs within the LOSSAN rail corridor.
- c) Monitor implementation of Executive Order N-19-19, and any related legislative or regulatory efforts, to ensure LOSSAN Agency remains competitive within existing funding programs and transportation funds are used for their intended purposes.

### III. CONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATION

- a) Continue working with California Intercity Rail Program partners on the planning, advocacy, and promotion of existing and future passenger rail service at the federal, state, and local level.
- b) Seek opportunities to support and advocate for the LOSSAN rail corridor, as well as emerging rail corridors, services, and high-speed rail.
- c) Support efforts to streamline and enhance transit services that provide for first-and-last mile connections to intercity, commuter, and high-speed rail passenger rail services and stations.
- d) Support state, federal, and local policies and programs that facilitate intermodal connectivity between passenger rail services on the LOSSAN rail corridor and other public transportation systems, including train to plane connections at local airports.
- e) Support efforts that would allow for the future extension of service to connect to areas outside of the existing LOSSAN rail corridor, including a financially sustainable access rate.

### IV. INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICE, AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

- a) Support legislation that encourages smart growth and transit-oriented development, mixed-use development, and joint development opportunities, including improved connectivity to and from rail stations.
- b) Support goods movement initiatives that provide infrastructure and throughput improvements for passenger rail systems.
- c) Support legislation promoting rail safety and rail security, including efforts to fund and responsibly implement and operate Positive Train Control (PTC), and request federal assistance in considering the fiscal, technological, and logistical challenges faced by entities implementing and operating PTC safety technology.
- d) Monitor any administrative reform efforts that may impact rail safety regulatory agencies such as the California Public Utilities Commission.
- e) Monitor the development of federal notices of proposed rulemakings (NPRM) and identify any impacts such proposals may have on passenger rail services. Seek opportunities to engage with, and submit comments to, NPRM-sponsoring agencies to communicate LOSSAN Agency concerns or support related to NPRMs.