



November 17, 2025

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

Subject: Amendment to Agreement for Preparation of Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension Project

Overview

On May 15, 2023, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors approved an agreement with Zephyr Rail, to prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project. An amendment to the existing agreement is requested to address delays in design reviews and additional requirements by the Union Pacific Railroad, that were not originally anticipated, and which have resulted in additional costs.

Recommendation

Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. L-3-0001 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Zephyr Rail in an amount up to \$245,000, for additional support in the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project.

Discussion

The Leesdale Siding Extension project (Project) in Ventura County will allow for the expansion of service north of Los Angeles and will result in reduced travel time and increased reliability. The Project will also enhance vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety at two at-grade rail crossings that will be upgraded due to the additional track at each grade crossing. The Project is located within Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) territory and requires design reviews by UPRR at each milestone along with adherence to UPRR right-of-entry permitting procedures.

The initial contract schedule included 14 months to complete the plans, specifications and estimates and fulfill the requirements of the contract. Due to longer than expected UPRR design review and right-of-entry permitting processes and requested changes from UPRR, the current anticipated completion date for this design portion of the Project is March of 2026.

In addition to these delays, there have been several unforeseen issues as described below:

- **Right of Way Fence Encroachment:** An error in a Record of Survey Map required additional research and investigative work as well as coordination with other agencies.
- **Signal Infrastructure Requirements:** A policy change by UPRR now requires the project owner to design the signal electricity requirements and coordinate with Southern California Edison (SCE) on the design. This necessitated a full set of electrical plans, coordination with SCE, a field meeting with SCE, and additional coordination with UPRR.
- **Additional Drainage Work:** Existing culverts were in worse condition than previously identified and are not salvageable, resulting in some new installations, and brand-new crossings that were not listed in the Scope of Work.

These three elements added additional time and cost to the design portion of the Project.

LOSSAN Agency staff and Zephyr Rail have agreed upon the level of effort for the additional required services as described in the Discussion section, and staff found Zephyr's price proposal, in the amount of \$245,000, to be fair and reasonable relative to the level of effort and the independent cost estimate. Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. L-3-0001, in the amount of \$245,000, is to provide funding for the required level of effort. Amendment No. 1 will bring the total contract value to \$4,138,052.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed Amendment will add \$245,000 to the total contract cost. There is adequate budget authority remaining in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget, therefore no budget amendment is necessary. If approved, the additional cost of this contract would be funded using reprogrammed State Rail Assistance formula funds under Account 0085-7519-X2031-D8Q.

Summary

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. L-3-0001 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Zephyr Rail, for additional work in the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project in the amount of \$245,000, for a total amended contract value of \$4,138,052.

Attachment

A. Zephyr Rail., Agreement No. L-3-0001 Fact Sheet

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Berryman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Berryman
Capital Program Manager
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