



November 17, 2025

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

Subject: 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program

Overview

Annually, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency adopts a Legislative Program of strategic goals to guide its legislative activities for the upcoming session. The 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program has been prepared for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Recommendation

Adopt the 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program.

Discussion

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency's (Agency) Board of Directors (Board) annually adopts a Legislative Program (Program) that outlines broad policy positions to guide staff when engaging in legislative activities. Official LOSSAN Agency positions not addressed by the Program are brought to the Board for separate action during the legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the California State Legislature. The Board last updated the Program on November 18, 2024.

The 2026 Program outlines principles aligned with the LOSSAN Agency's role while also advancing the goals outlined in the LOSSAN Agency's annual business plan. The Program is organized into four major categories, which are discussed in greater detail below, but can be outlined as follows:

1. Secure Sustainable Funding
2. Implementation of Transportation Policies
3. Connectivity and Integration
4. Infrastructure, Service, Resiliency, and Safety

The 2026 LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program has been updated to align with current state fiscal conditions, new funding structures, and anticipated policy developments that will shape intercity rail planning and investment over the next year. The updates reflect the LOSSAN Agency's priorities to secure dedicated funding, ensure program stability, and position the corridor for long-term resiliency and growth. The 2026 Program is included as a strikethrough version in Attachment A, with a clean copy included as Attachment B.

One of the key updates focuses on advocacy related to maintaining state funding for intercity passenger rail and transit operations. State funding provides significant support for these services, which are essential to sustaining operations and advancing system improvements. The updated Legislative Program emphasizes the importance of preserving this funding consistent with prior commitments for LOSSAN and ensuring that these resources remain available to support critical passenger rail service, maintain reliable operations, and advance long-term corridor resiliency and improvement projects.

The Program also reflects the State's transition from the Cap-and-Trade framework to the Cap-and-Invest program, which was reauthorized through 2045. The new Cap-and-Invest structure establishes a tiered funding system that first allocates \$1 billion annually to the California High-Speed Rail Project, followed by another \$1 billion set aside for legislative discretionary use. The remaining auction proceeds are then distributed to traditional greenhouse gas reduction and transportation programs such as the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. LOSSAN's Program now underscores the need to protect and enhance the portion of Cap-and-Invest revenue dedicated to transit and intercity rail. Ensuring the corridor remains competitive for this funding is essential, especially as the State refines how auction proceeds are distributed among programs and regions. The Program also recognizes the potential linkage between Cap-and-Invest and future High-Speed Rail integration in Southern California, noting the importance of maintaining equitable investment across corridors.

Another change in the Program reflects the removal of language referencing regulations related to zero-emission locomotives, following the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) withdrawal of its In-Use Locomotive Regulation earlier this year. CARB rescinded the rule after it became clear that the federal government was unlikely to grant the waiver necessary for implementation. The LOSSAN program continues to engage in policies related to zero-emission and energy-efficient locomotive technology, recognizing the importance of ongoing coordination through the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the need for funding to support research, testing, and fleet modernization efforts.

Additionally, with the SB 1098 (Chapter 777, Statutes of 2024) report due to the Legislature by February 1, 2026, the Program anticipates potential legislation related to reforming rail governance structures, operations, and planning. This report, to be developed by CalSTA in consultation with stakeholders, will evaluate conditions and improvement needs along the LOSSAN corridor and prioritize capital and resiliency projects. The LOSSAN Agency remains actively engaged in this process to ensure its priorities and regional perspective are reflected in any future legislative or administrative proposals.

Taken together, these updates strengthen LOSSAN's advocacy focus for the upcoming year, ensuring that the Agency remains well-positioned to protect existing revenues, secure new investment, and inform state and federal policy decisions that impact the corridor. To ensure the maximum applicability of the 2026 Program, the Board may review and amend the Program as legislation or legislative issues arise when deemed appropriate. In addition, to advocate for the Program's goals and principles effectively, LOSSAN Agency staff will continue to explore and identify opportunities where the legislative resources and expertise of LOSSAN Agency's member agencies can be leveraged to advance the positions and goals outlined in the Program.

Summary

The 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program is presented for consideration and adoption.

Attachments

- A. 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program (Strikethrough Version)
- B. 2026 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Legislative Program (Clean Version)

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