




**February 6, 2025**

**To:** Members of the Executive Committee

**From:** Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

**Subject:** Semi-Annual Progress Report of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency 2024 Work Plan

### **Overview**

On February 20, 2024, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors approved the 2024 Work Plan, which highlighted the key initiatives that would be undertaken in support of the 2023 Strategic Plan goals. As part of the implementation of the 2024 Work Plan, progress reports on a semi-annual basis that capture the status of the tasks being done in support of the annual work plan will be provided to the Board of Directors. This semi-annual progress report provides an update on activities in support of the 2024 Work Plan from July 2024 through December 2024.

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file as an information item.

### **Discussion**

As part of the approval by the Board of Directors (Board) of the 2023 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Strategic Plan, direction was given to utilize the Strategic Plan in the development of an annual work plan. The work plan lays out projects that would be undertaken for that calendar year in support of goals included in the Strategic Plan. The work plan was not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all tasks that the LOSSAN Agency would undertake during the calendar year, but rather to capture key projects and initiatives that would be undertaken in support of the LOSSAN Agency's strategic goals.

Both the semi-annual and year-end progress reports offer detailed insights into the achievements under each objective listed in the annual work plan. These reports not only highlight the accomplishments from July 2024 through December 2024 but also shed light on anticipated activities aimed at furthering the objectives in the upcoming

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period. Detailed information on both current progress and expected future activities for each objective can be found in Attachment A.

Semi-Annual Progress Report

One of the LOSSAN Agency's most notable achievements during the second half of Calendar Year 2024 was the submission of an application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to help initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service in the United States. The program aims to expand rail transportation options, improve connectivity, and boost economic development by supporting the development of new or expanded passenger rail services.

As part of its application, the LOSSAN Agency pursued increasing frequency of service along the Los Angeles – San Diego segment of the Pacific Surfliner route to restore service to pre-pandemic levels. Following the close of the second half of Calendar Year 2024, in January 2025, the FRA announced that the LOSSAN Agency had been awarded \$27 million to increase service frequency, which will be used to support the addition of three additional round trips for the Los Angeles – San Diego segment. The award marks a significant milestone for the LOSSAN Agency as its first successful federal grant award and supports the LOSSAN Agency's ongoing goal to research and leverage federal and state operating and capital funding opportunities to support its goals.

In addition, during the second half of Calendar Year 2024, the LOSSAN Agency continued to make progress on other objectives from the work plan which are ongoing and considered continuous in nature. These include:

- Installation of new station wayfinding signage, bus stop identification signs and schedules, and suicide prevention and safety signage at sections of track more prone to trespasser strikes as part of Operation Safe Surfs. Progress was achieved on the latter two items during the second half of Calendar Year 2024 after mitigating required coordination with host railroads and procurement delays, with additional progress to be made on signage installation in Calendar Year 2025.
- In accordance with the new chapter added to the FY 2024-25 LOSSAN Agency Annual Business Plan, the LOSSAN Agency participated in calls with several working groups to build consensus and ensure effective coordination in addressing coastal erosion and climate change along the LOSSAN rail corridor.

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- Coordination with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) to install Wireless Crossing Nearside Station Stop technology on Pacific Surfliner trains, which was completed in September 2024. The technology was first implemented at the Del Obispo Street at-grade crossing in the City of San Juan Capistrano in June 2024, with the intent of preventing southbound Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner trains scheduled to stop at San Juan Capistrano Station from activating the crossing's safety features until after leaving the station.
- Coordination with host railroads for absolute work windows to minimize impacts to intercity, regional, commuter, and freight rail services along the LOSSAN rail corridor.
- Participation in regional coordination efforts in preparation for the LA28 Olympics, including attending a Regional Transportation Assembly meeting organized and hosted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority in November 2024, as well as the first rail subcommittee stakeholder workstream meeting organized by Metrolink in December 2024.

Additional details on milestones which either have been accomplished or are continuous in nature, as well as those which have been extended or delayed, are provided in Attachment A.

***Summary***

A semi-annual progress report for the 2024 Work Plan is provided for the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors to review.

***Attachments***

- A. LOSSAN Agency 2024 Work Plan Initiatives & Goals
- B. 2024 Work Plan LOSSAN Agency Work Plan Progress Report – July 2024 to December 2024