



July 20, 2026

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Toks Omishakin

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
400 Capital Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Omishakin:

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Board of Directors (Board), I would like express appreciation for your leadership in convening the Senate Bill (SB) 1098 LOSSAN Rail Corridor Working Group. We share a common goal with the State and Senator Blakespear to pursue every opportunity to improve passenger rail services across the LOSSAN rail corridor.

The LOSSAN Agency appreciates the opportunity to participate in all of the Working Group meetings and coordinate with the California State Transportation Agency, California Department of Transportation, LOSSAN Agency member agencies, rail corridor operators, owners, other state agencies and stakeholders in the development of the consensus-driven recommendations. Overall, the LOSSAN Agency supports the recommendations included in the report, and looks forward to continued participation and stakeholder engagement in future Working Group meetings to further the efforts identified in the report. It will be important for future Working Group meetings to formalize roles and responsibilities and define next steps in many of the recommendation areas, including future coordination of the Rail Leadership Group, Rail Fleet Consortium and the LOSSAN Technical Advisory Committee as forums to advance priorities throughout the corridor.

While all 39 recommendations and their related efforts will play a key role in strengthening the corridor, several key recommendations will be critical to improving service reliability, including streamlining permitting and the delivery of coastal rail projects, developing a corridor-wide fleet strategy that aligns equipment, facilities and infrastructure needs with funding, establishing a corridor-wide strategy for work windows to reduce passenger impacts and reducing trespasser frequency and severity by utilizing data to inform targeted and prioritized improvements.

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For over 13 years, the LOSSAN Agency has fulfilled the foundational goals established under SB 1225 and the State Rail Plan, while significantly advancing intercity passenger rail service throughout the rail corridor. The Agency has expanded and improved service, including for special events, strengthened connections with partner services, successfully navigated the challenges presented by a national pandemic and advanced significant capital projects supporting corridor resiliency, capacity, and reliability.

Following the full restoration of service levels and implementation of an expanded service pilot this year, ridership and revenue have exceeded pre-pandemic levels while farebox recovery continues to exceed State performance requirements. The Amtrak Pacific Surfliner intercity rail service managed by the LOSSAN Agency continues to be the busiest State-supported Amtrak route and the second busiest intercity rail service in the nation in terms of ridership.

The need for continued and sustainable State operating funding will be critical for the long-term success of California intercity rail service. The most recent three-year State budget augmentation for the state-supported intercity passenger rail program from the Public Transportation Account has fulfilled its objectives by restoring pre-pandemic service levels across the State and specifically for the Pacific Surfliner service, has resulted in the return to and exceedance of pre-pandemic ridership and revenues levels. In addition, the LOSSAN Agency has been awarded over \$27 million through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Restoration and Enhancement Grant which supports the restoration of the 11th, 12th and 13th roundtrips between Los Angeles and San Diego over the next six years, for which the State has made a funding match commitment to the FRA. In order to continue to build upon the current success of the Pacific Surfliner, it is imperative that the State, starting in Fiscal Year 2028, fund intercity rail service at levels that will sustain both restored and expanded service. This funding will be vitally important to showcase Pacific Surfliner service to the world while supporting a transit-first LA28 Olympics.

On behalf of the LOSSAN Board, the LOSSAN Agency looks forward to continuing to work with you and the LOSSAN Working Group to further develop the efforts associated with the recommendations with the shared goal of continuing to improve passenger rail ridership, reliability and coordination throughout the corridor and the State. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Fred Strong
Chair, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors
Jason Jewell, Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency