



Board Actions: January 2004

MEMBER AGENCIES

California Department of
Transportation
Los Angeles County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority
North San Diego County Transit
Development Board
Orange County Transportation
Authority
San Diego Association of
Governments
San Diego Metropolitan Transit
Development Board
San Luis Obispo Council of
Governments
Santa Barbara County Association
of Governments
Ventura County Transportation
Commission

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Southern California Association of
Governments

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amtrak
Burlington Northern Santa Fe
California Public Utilities
Commission
Southern California Regional Rail
Authority
Union Pacific

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SELECTION OF 2004 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Board of Directors elected Art Brown, Councilmember from the City of Buena Park, and LOSSAN Board Member representing OCTA, as chair for 2004. Ms. Jacki Bacharach, Board Member representing MTA will remain as vice chair for 2004.

LOSSAN ROAD SHOW

The Board approved a slide presentation and accompanying script that discusses the LOSSAN Corridor and the role of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to be presented to member agencies and other interested groups and directed staff to schedule these meetings over the next few months.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

The Board of Directors approved the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) recommendation to develop five criteria that are key to LOSSAN's support of federal legislation related to rail capital and operations. These criteria are: (1) proposals address the future of Amtrak and specifically a stable, multi-year funding source, (2) proposals include a separate rail capital and/or operating program for a long-term source of federal funds for rail, (3) any such rail program has a dedicated funding source and does not impact earmarks such as the highway trust fund, (4) there is geographic equity between all corridors nationwide, and (5) there is a diversity of rail projects eligible for funding. The TAC will continue to review the relevant legislation, and along with the Chair and Vice Chair, submit LOSSAN's support where applicable.

LOSSAN JOINT MEETING WITH THE COAST RAIL COORDINATING COUNCIL

The LOSSAN Board of Directors also held a joint meeting with the Policy Committee of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC), a coastal rail advocacy group of agencies between Los Angeles and San Francisco. As a result of the discussion on potential state budget impacts, reauthorization of the federal surface transportation bill (TEA-21), and other federal legislation, both LOSSAN and CRCC jointly voted to write letters to bill co-sponsors, the corridor delegation, and the State of California to express our issues with each effort.

Members also voted to send a joint letter to Amtrak and the State to express support for an additional round trip to San Luis Obispo, on top of the one round trip currently provided on weekdays. Amtrak is currently looking at the operational details of this additional service.

CORRIDORWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Caltrans provided an informational update on the LOSSAN Strategic Plan, a long-range plan for the Los Angeles to San Diego segment of the corridor recently finalized. This plan was conducted in conjunction with both the California High-Speed Rail Authority's statewide programmatic environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (PEIR/EIS) and Caltrans Los Angeles to San Diego corridorwide PEIR/EIS efforts. The Strategic Plan is available on www.amtrakcalifornia.com. TAC members will continue to discuss efforts to expand this plan for the entire LOSSAN corridor in FY 2005 at their January 27, 2004 meeting.

PACIFIC SURFLINER REPORT

Amtrak reported on recent trends in corridor ridership and revenue. The Pacific Surfliner corridor is the fastest growing corridor nationwide. Statistics for November 2003 show that it was the highest November ridership in the history of the service with gains in both business and coach class.

Amtrak continues to see gains in ridership from the Rail-2-Rail program, a joint venture with Metrolink and Caltrans that allows Metrolink riders to use Amtrak trains at no additional charge. Board and TAC members discussed the possible expansion of the program to Coaster service, with NCTD, Amtrak, and Caltrans currently working on the details.

NEXT MEETINGS

The LOSSAN TAC will next meet on Tuesday, January 27, 2004.

The Board approved the next two Board meetings for 2004: Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at MTA and Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at SANDAG (and plans to hold a meeting in 2005 in the northern segment of the corridor).

The Board asked staff to reschedule the December 2004 meeting to an earlier date in November and report back.