

Board Actions: December 2005

Los Angeles · San Diego · San Luis Obispo
Rail Corridor Agency

**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 System

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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**JOINT RAIL AGENCY COORDINATION EFFORTS AND UPCOMING
SACRAMENTO RECEPTION**

The Board of Directors received an update on recent joint advocacy activities by LOSSAN, the Capitol Corridor, and the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee. A reception was held in mid-October in Sacramento to thank the authors of Assembly Joint Resolution 18, which passed the state legislature in August (AJR 18 urges Congress to create a stable, multi-year funding source for Amtrak and is the first such joint message passed in California). Staff updated the Board on the details of the next joint event, a noon-time reception, and legislative meetings on January 26, 2006, at the Capitol to focus attention on passenger rail infrastructure needs and their inclusion in a possible bond measure next year (see next item). The Board directed staff to develop a joint fact sheet for these events.

**STATUS OF STATE FUNDING FOR LOSSAN CORRIDOR PROJECTS AND
OTHER STATE RAIL MATTERS**

Caltrans provided an update on corridor projects and overall state funding issues. The Board of Directors discussed recent activity related to Senate Bill 1024, the statewide infrastructure bill scheduled for the ballot in 2006. Currently an \$11 billion measure, the bill is expected to be amended to include additional needs such as commuter and intercity rail funds. The Governor also recently indicated his support for a much larger infrastructure bond measure built around the Go California initiative, perhaps as much as \$50 billion. The Board of Directors approved an advocacy effort to maximize funding for intercity passenger rail projects in these measures.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE INCLUDING THE LOSSAN CORRIDOR
DEFINITION**

Staff summarized a brief history of the LOSSAN corridor definition issue and informed the Board that the corrected definition was not included in the FY 2006 federal appropriations bill as was anticipated. Senator Boxer's staff recommended that we renew our efforts in early 2006. The Board directed staff to develop a strategy based on input from LOSSAN member agency legislative staff.

The FY 2006 appropriations bill did include \$1.315 billion for Amtrak operations and capital projects, a compromise between the \$1.17 billion proposed in the House and the \$1.45 billion proposed in the Senate, but well above the \$360 million level proposed by the Administration. However, several provisions were attached to this bill, including Provision #14, which prevents Amtrak from offering discounted fares below 50 percent of the peak period fare. This provision is effective March 1, 2006, and will be detrimental to California's intercity service. For example, Amtrak's "Kids 'n Trains" program offers discounted fares to school groups during the offpeak, and other discounted fare programs to business travelers, seniors, and other groups are threatened. The Board of Directors approved contacting the corridor's federal delegation for their assistance on eliminating this provision and directed that an editorial be developed for Board members to distribute to area newspapers.

SURFLINER REPORT

Pacific Surfliner trains continue to experience record ridership, with September ridership being the highest recorded September in history and the seventh straight record month. Amtrak carried more than 2.5 million riders for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, another record year. On-time performance was at 80 percent for September, below the goal of 85 percent for the corridor. Delays continue to be primarily due to interference with other passenger and freight trains.

LOSSAN CORRIDORWIDE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN AND INCORPORATION OF COMMUTER RAIL ANALYSIS

The Board received a status report on the LOSSAN Corridorwide Strategic Business Plan. The scope of work has been expanded to include an assessment of commuter rail between Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and a detailed rail modeling analysis. The commuter rail analysis has been completed and will be used as one input to the rail modeling analysis, which is scheduled to begin in January 2006. Because of these major tasks taking longer than anticipated, the final corridorwide strategic business plan is scheduled for May 2006 (revised from March 2006).

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Metrolink recently approved the purchase of seven locomotives and 59 rail cars, with bids anticipated in January 2006. MTS announced the successful opening of San Diego's latest light rail transit route, the Green Line to San Diego State University. The line is carrying 40 percent more students than was anticipated. MTA's Orange Line opened in late October with current ridership at more than 16,000 daily boardings, about double what was expected. The City of Buena Park will break ground later this month on a 192-unit housing development with direct access to the future Buena Park commuter rail station.

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Directors approved the following meeting schedule for 2006:

- Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at MTA at 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at SANDAG (tentatively scheduled for 10:30 a.m.)
- Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at MTA at 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at MTA at 11:30 a.m.

The next LOSSAN TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. in Los Angeles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

Michael G. Powers

From: Culp, Linda [lcu@sandag.org]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2006 9:13 AM
To: nygaardjll@yahoo.com; abrown@buenapark.com; jackibach@cox.net; bill_bronte@dot.ca.gov; jrindone@ci.chula-vista.ca.us; srose@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; supervisorCarbajal@sbcbos1.org; jkellejian@hotmail.com; kmillhouse@mglaw.net; jpshoals@rrmdesign.com; rdixon@ci.lake-forest.ca.us; loubone@pacbell.net; mreiss@pismobeach.org; Alissa@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; jferry@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; brian.humphrey@prodigy.net
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Subject: FW: Invitation to a Reception January 26, 2006

Save the Date!

Please join us at a reception to honor the bipartisan efforts of legislators and advocates in supporting Amtrak and passenger rail in California.

In attendance: David Hughes, Amtrak Acting President and CEO, elected officials and representatives of corridor committees statewide.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2006
Time: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm
Place: Room 317 in the State Capitol, Sacramento

Hosted by:

**Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
LOSSAN Joint Powers Board
San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee
Coast Rail Coordinating Council
Amtrak**

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