

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEETING DATE:** May 15, 2010

**AGENDA ITEM:** 15

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Powers

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive report of Coast Rail Coordinating Council Meeting of April 22, 2010

**DISCUSSION:**

Councilman Ed Skytt and Michael Powers attended the recent Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting in Soledad on April 22nd. Below is a summary of important issues:

- Received a report that modeling of the coast rail improvements by Union Pacific is delayed by six months due to other work priorities associated with Federal Rail Administration project funding.
- Authorized staff to explore existing use of rail improvement capital funding to address needs for Positive Train Control in Coast section of UP rail line in exchange for access to two new train slots.
- Considered ongoing advocacy needs to secure state and federal funding
- Authorized solicitation of Senate "Letter of Support" for Coast Rail operating funds, i.e. a broad measure of legislative report.
- Expressed relief that rail funding for state subsidized rail services appears more secure with the recent state gas tax swap.
- Discussed implications of rescheduled 798/799 early service to Santa Barbara to Coast Daylight ridership
- Discussed the possibility of a demonstration Coast Daylight train in coordination with Operation Lifesaver operation. [Operation Lifesaver is a rail safety program that highlights the danger of rail crossings and persons on or near the rail tracks].
- Received reports from local agencies

**Member Agencies**

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

- Caltrain is experiencing significant financial problems resulting in potential discontinuation of non-commuter mid day services.
- Metrolink agencies are focusing capital projects on Positive Train Control
- Light rail is under consideration on the Monterey Peninsula between Monterey and Marina.
- A conference facility is under consideration near the Grover Beach station and SLO station lighting is being improved.

The next CRCC technical meeting will occur on July 29 in Oakland and the next policy board meeting will take place on September 30 in San Luis Obispo, jointly scheduled with the September LOSSAN Policy Board meeting.