

**Board Actions: February 2005****RECEIVED**2005 FEB 23 10 41 AM  
Los Angeles, San Diego, San Luis Obispo  
Rail Corridor Agency**LOSSAN****MEMBER AGENCIES**California Department of  
TransportationLos Angeles County Metropolitan  
Transportation AuthorityNorth San Diego County  
Transit Development BoardOrange County  
Transportation AuthoritySan Diego  
Association of GovernmentsSan Diego Metropolitan  
Transit SystemSan Luis Obispo  
Council of GovernmentsSanta Barbara County  
Association of GovernmentsVentura County  
Transportation Commission**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER**Southern California  
Association of Governments**ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Amtrak

Burlington Northern Santa Fe  
California Public Utilities CommissionSouthern California  
Regional Rail Authority

Union Pacific

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lossan@sandag.org**SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Board of Directors re-elected Art Brown, Councilmember from the City of Buena Park and LOSSAN Board Member representing OCTA, as Chair for 2005. Jacki Bacharach, Board Member representing MTA, was re-elected Vice Chair for 2005.

**LOSSAN SUPPORT FOR FY 2005 STATE FUNDING FOR INTERCITY RAIL PROJECTS**

The Board received an update on the state budget from Caltrans and voted to request that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) fund two intercity rail projects in FY 2005 that are in the CTC's prioritized project list. These projects are the completion of the seismic retrofit of Tunnel 26 in Ventura County and the Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Project in San Diego County. Funds requested total \$10.254 million and are part of the \$900 million in programming authority available to the CTC this year. The CTC will review this request at their March 2005 meeting.

**LOSSAN SUPPORT FOR TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AMTRAK**

The Board received an update on federal legislative activities related to the reauthorization of TEA-21 and the Bush Administration's proposal to cut funding for Amtrak in FY 2006. The Board voted to organize support for a Joint Resolution of the California Assembly and Senate, as well as support from the Governor, for a stable source of federal funds for Amtrak.

**2005 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

The Board approved the 2005 Legislative Program developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that specifically defines priorities for the rail corridor agency on the local, state, and federal levels. The Board added a high priority item to support goods movement legislation that benefits passenger rail and strengthened the provision to support funds from Homeland Security for system protection and passenger safety. The Board also requested that LOSSAN assume a larger profile and directly participate in efforts to advocate for transportation funds.

**LOSSAN CORRIDORWIDE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN**

The Board received a status report on the LOSSAN Corridorwide Strategic Business Plan, which is developing a strategic business plan for the Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo segment of the corridor and will be integrated with the existing Los Angeles to San Diego strategic business plan. A key component of the plan will be the identification of projects and their schedule for implementation. Public meetings in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties are scheduled for March 1-3, 2005. The study is expected to conclude in September 2005. Caltrans is considering whether to extend the study to review the possibility of commuter rail options in the northern segment of the corridor.

## **FY 2006 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM**

The Board of Directors approved the overall work program for FY 2006 recommended by the TAC. The main focus of this program will be continued administrative support for the agency and the completion of the LOSSAN Corridorwide Strategic Business Plan. The Board requested that voting member agencies contribute to SANDAG's continued role by each contributing \$5,000 either in funds or in-kind support for a total of \$40,000 for administrative activities. The other voting member, Caltrans, will continue to fund the LOSSAN Strategic Business Plan through FY 2006. As was the case in FY 2005, SANDAG has decided to fund the shares for NCTD and MTS per recent agency consolidation among these agencies.

## **FRA INTERIM FINAL RULE ON THE USE OF LOCOMOTIVE HORNS AT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS AND "QUIET ZONES"**

The Board received an informational report from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) staff regarding the recent rule on the use of horns at grade crossings and the ability of communities to create quiet zones at crossings as long as the community is willing to take on the associated liability. The final rule is expected by April 1, 2005.

## **PACIFIC SURFLINER REPORT**

Prior to January 2005, Pacific Surfliner trains continued to experience record ridership. Due to the suspension of intercity service for three days between San Diego and Los Angeles in January and suspension of complete service north of Los Angeles until the end of February (as a result of winter storm damage to the rail line), ridership declined in January over the previous year by 14 percent. Revenue declined by 19 percent.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

The LOSSAN Board will next meet on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, in Santa Barbara beginning at 10:30 a.m. (location to be determined).

The LOSSAN TAC will next meet on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, at MTA at 11:30 a.m.