



ITEM ID: 2026-214-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: June 18, 2026

MEETING DATE: June 26, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Improving the Performance of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor

Issue

Senate Bill 1098 (Blakespear, 2024) requires the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to develop and present a report to the state Legislature identifying recommendations for improving the performance of the LOSSAN Corridor connecting San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Luis Obispo. The 351-mile route is the busiest state-supported Amtrak route and the second busiest intercity rail corridor in the nation. The report is required to be presented to the Boards of Directors of Metrolink, LOSSAN and North County Transportation District before submittal to the Legislature. CalSTA staff will present key findings of the draft report and be available to answer questions.

Recommendation

Receive and file.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. Work on the SB 1098 LOSSAN Corridor report and ongoing coordination efforts is consistent with Metrolink's commitment to forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving.

Background

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) staff convened a LOSSAN Working Group to assist in developing the recommendations. Staff of Metrolink, LOSSAN and North County Transportation District were invited to participate in the working group meetings held on a monthly basis. Working Group's discussions informed development of the draft report which includes consensus recommendations. CalSTA intends to convene the Working Group on a quarterly basis after the report is presented to the Legislature this summer.

Discussion

The legislation requires the recommendations to identify strategies to:

1. Increase rail service coordination and reduce disruptions or delays
2. Improve intercity and regional rail services through alternative management and operations models or structures
3. Change state law, regulations or funding to improve passenger rail services, with a focus on streamlining initiatives
4. Expand opportunities for federal capital funding through the federal Corridor Identification and Development Program

Next Steps

The Board is recommended to receive and file the draft report and direct Metrolink staff to prepare a comment letter for inclusion by CalSTA in the final report. The comment letter is recommended to focus on demonstrating the critical need for robust state funding support given the significant operating budget challenge faced by Metrolink due in part to ridership recovery, cost increases and structural sale tax revenue shortfalls anticipated by member agencies.

According to CalSTA, the public comment period closes on July 3 and Board feedback is requested no later than July 8. Board and public comment letters will be compiled and transmitted to the Legislature in a supplemental appendix to the CalSTA report.

Prepared by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Attachment(s)

[Attachment A - SB 1098 Public Comment Draft Presentation - SB 1098 Summary](#)