



ITEM ID: 2024-216-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: June 7, 2024

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2024

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Time Extension Rail-2-Rail and Code Share Program - Amendment No. 7 to Cooperative Agreement L-9-0005

Issue

The current Rail-2-Rail (R2R) Agreement with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) was last extended to June 30, 2024. A new Cooperative Agreement is needed to continue the R2R program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee recommend the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an amendment which extends Agreement No. L-9-0005 between LOSSAN, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Authority), and Amtrak to continue the Rail-2-Rail (R2R) program for a six-month term through December 31, 2024, for a total maximum amount of \$335,443.

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. This agreement advances a partnership between the Authority and LOSSAN that creates opportunities for reciprocal travel that is greater than each of their separate services.

Background

The R2R program was initiated in 2003 through a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Authority, and Amtrak. The R2R program was intended to leverage available capacity on the Pacific Surfliner for the mutual benefit of both the Authority and the Pacific Surfliner by providing additional capacity for Metrolink passengers at a time when the Authority needed capacity and had no options to provide it.

The program also intended to help increase ridership and fare revenue on the Pacific Surfliner by carrying Metrolink passengers. The more prominent expression of R2R is a mutual pass acceptance between the Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink on the lines that follow the LOSSAN Corridor – the Orange County Line, most of the Ventura County Line, and portions of the Antelope Valley Line, 91/Perris Valley Line, and IEOC Line that share stations with those lines. R2R allows Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink monthly passholders to utilize either service within the limits of their valid ticket at no additional charge and provides for a reciprocal use for Pacific Surfliner passengers.

Currently, the R2R program allows the Authority to offer up to 24 additional daily trips to its monthly passholders at a fraction of the cost to provide that service independently. A secondary expression of the R2R Program is the concept of shared services or code share. With the code share concept, certain trips of the Pacific Surfliner operate as if they are also Metrolink trains. They are included on the Metrolink schedule and accept all Metrolink fare media to ride. This type of arrangement was initiated in 2005 and applied to one trip in each direction on the portion of the LOSSAN corridor between Los Angeles Union Station and Ventura County (parallel to the Ventura County Line), under the name “Shared Services.” In October 2021, this was extended to a second roundtrip to support a LOSSAN schedule change that impacted Metrolink schedules and renamed code share to improve passenger understanding because code share trains are effectively treated as part of the Metrolink schedule.

On March 18, 2019, the LOSSAN Board of Directors approved Cooperative Agreement L-9-0005, which extended the R2R Program between the Authority and Amtrak for a term of one year through June 30, 2020. The reimbursement rate was recommended to be \$7.00 per boarding between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. In October 2020, the agreement was amended to extend the program until June 30, 2021, and subsequently the agreement was amended two additional times to extend the expiration date to June 30, 2023, and add a second roundtrip to the rechristened code share program. On November 1, 2024, a pilot program to expand code share to apply to all Surfliner trains between Los Angeles and Ventura-Downtown/Beach Station was implemented to be in effect until June 30, 2024, and the reimbursement rate for each boarding went up to \$10. Upon conclusion of the pilot period, the program may be extended by mutual agreement.

Discussion

The Authority and LOSSAN have since continued to discuss the code share pilot program and R2R program and recommend the continuation of the program until December 31, 2024, at the same \$10 per boarding for the code share rate, up to a maximum budgeted amount of

\$335,443 for the six-month time extension while LOSSAN finalizes their new fare structure.

Budget Impact

The amount for which contract authority is requested \$335,443 is included in the Proposed Operating Budget for FY25 anticipated to be adopted at the June 2024 Board meeting. Expenditure of funds is contingent upon adoption of the FY25 budget.

Next Steps

By December 2024, staff will return to the Board for another time extension to carry the R2R program until the end of June 30, 2025.

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Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer