



**ITEM ID:** 2025-306-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** September 19, 2025

**MEETING DATE:** September 26, 2025

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

**SUBJECT:** Operating Agreement for Santa Barbara Temporary Service

**Issue**

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) (Funding Agencies) have entered into discussions with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) to provide an additional one round trip service from Moorpark to Goleta on a temporary basis until LOSSAN receives expected equipment to permanently operate the service on this sixth train slot. It is anticipated that this additional Santa Barbara service will commence January 26, 2026.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an Agreement between LOSSAN and SCRRA for temporary service from Moorpark to Goleta.

**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 which creates opportunities for reciprocal travel that is greater than each of their separate services.

## **Background**

Prior to the pandemic, LOSSAN (the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor) operated rail service from Los Angeles and Ventura counties to Goleta in the morning, which served commuters in their daily trips to work. Due to a sharp decline in commuter use during the pandemic, this service was terminated. While the slot was reinstated in 2022 at the end of the pandemic, the trip was scheduled at a later time to serve anticipated higher ridership demand. However, LOSSAN has been unable to provide the service in the new slot due to the unavailability of equipment and operational funds.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) has expressed strong interest in reinstating a morning commute service, which is an important benefit for Ventura County residents who work in Santa Barbara. As many as 11,000 commuters drive to Santa Barbara daily from Ventura County, according to a 2024 SBCAG study. While SBCAG and VCTC will jointly fund the service, SBCAG funding comes from South County's portion of Measure A sales tax, which has been accumulating since 2010.

With the new service to be provided by Metrolink departing from Moorpark rather than Los Angeles Union Station, this will help contain costs, improve ridership and improve on-time performance issues. LOSSAN has stated its interest in offering service during the time slot; however, LOSSAN has not yet received the equipment needed to do so. The project partners have been working together to determine the path forward, both short term and long term.

## **Discussion**

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) (Funding Agencies) have entered into discussions with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) to provide an additional one round trip from Moorpark to Goleta on a temporary basis until LOSSAN receives anticipated equipment to permanently operate the service on this sixth train slot. LOSSAN has agreed to authorize this service on the condition that SCRRA will operate as a subcontractor to LOSSAN under an Amtrak ticket and fare structure. LOSSAN has finalized a separate Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) which provides temporary authorization for SCRRA to operate on this LOSSAN train slot.

The Funding Agencies have agreed to fully reimburse SCRRA operating expenses to operate this service and will remit advance payment on a quarterly basis. The fare revenues collected for the roundtrip ticket from Moorpark to Goleta will be provided to the Funding Agencies. It is anticipated that this additional Santa Barbara service will commence January 26, 2026.

The new service will originate in Moorpark at 6:38 AM each weekday with the return trip leaving Goleta at 10:35 AM southbound arriving in Los Angeles Union Station at 1:30 PM. All agencies will bring this item to their respective Board of Directors for approval in September in advance of the service start date.

## Northbound Service to Goleta

Station	New Pacific Surfliner Train (Operated by Metrolink) ( <i>Mondays and holidays</i> )
Moorpark	6:38 AM
Camarillo	6:50 AM
Oxnard	7:00 AM
Ventura Downtown-Beach	7:12 AM
Carpinteria	7:35 AM
Santa Barbara	7:51 AM
Goleta	8:03 AM

## Southbound Service to Moorpark (Continuing to LAX)

Station	New Pacific Surfliner Train (Operated by Metrolink) ( <i>Mondays and holidays, excluding holidays</i> )
Goleta	10:35 AM
Santa Barbara	10:47 AM
Carpinteria	11:02 AM
Ventura Downtown-Beach	11:30 AM
Oxnard	11:43 AM
Camarillo	11:57 AM
Moorpark	12:11 PM
<i>(Metrolink Station Stops)</i>	
Los Angeles Union Station	1:30 PM

## **Budget Impact**

There is no net budget impact as all additional operating expenses for this service will be offset by a fixed fee revenue paid quarterly in advance from the funding agencies, SBCAG and VCTC.

## **Next Steps**

The final agreement will be routed for signature, and the new service is expected to commence January 26, 2026.

Prepared by: Lisa Colicchio, Interim Director of Railroad Services

Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer