

# Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: December 24, 2007

From: John F. Barna  
Executive Director

File No: Ref #4.2  
Agenda Item  
ACTION

Ref: **Consent on Draft California State Rail Plan 2007-08 Through 2017-18**

## **Issue:**

Should the Commission provide its consent to the Department of Transportation (Department) on its ten-year California State Rail Plan?

Under Government Code Section 14036, the Commission advises the Department of Transportation on its ten-year California State Rail Plan and then gives its consent. Last month the Commission gave its advice to the Department. This month the Commission will consider giving its consent regarding the State Rail Plan.

## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Commission give its consent to the Department on its California State Rail Plan by adopting the attached resolution. The Commission's advice was given to the Department at the last Commission meeting and is incorporated into the resolution giving the Commission's consent. The Commission's advice was that the Department should:

- Include in its California State Rail Plan that the Department will work on providing limited express service (at least one round trip/day) between San Diego and Los Angeles. The Department shall include a report on the feasibility study in its 2008 Annual Corridor Business Plan for the Pacific Surfliner. Should the Annual Corridor Business Plan be delayed, the Department will report on the feasibility study not later than May 31, 2008 to the Commission.

The feasibility study shall include a plan, schedule, and estimate of cost to implement roundtrip limited-express service from San Diego to Los Angeles. The express service should have a transit time goal of about two hours on both the morning and evening trains. This would be accomplished by changing the existing schedule of the trains that run between San Diego and Los Angeles, using current intercity rolling stock and locomotives to provide the service.

The Department is directed to describe in its feasibility plan the benefits to be gained from changing the service such as advancing AB 32 green house gas emission reduction goals, traffic reduction and relief, shorter travel times, increased ridership and increased revenues. The Department should also address in the feasibility plan the policy, financial, inter-agency and operational challenges that may prevent it from meeting the goal of providing express service between San Diego and Los Angeles.

- Investigate providing internet access on its intercity rail trains. Specifically, the Department should determine the feasibility of offering a franchise to the private sector with agreed upon service performance measures, profit margins and the term length of the franchise. The Department will report back semi-annually on its progress to bring wireless broadband internet capabilities to its intercity rail trains and include the results in its next California State Rail Plan.
- Work with SanDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) to identify a suitable place for a layover facility. The Department will report semi-annually to the Commission on its progress in finding a suitable site. Once a suitable site has been identified, the Department should inform the Commission about the funding partnership formed to provide local, state and federal funds for the project, the contributions from each agency, and a schedule for delivering the layover facility. The Department will include the results in its next California State Rail Plan.
- Seek more innovative ways to market the State's intercity rail service, including tying its marketing contract to performance goals for increasing ridership by corridor. On new service, the Department should be able to increase ridership and farebox in a matter of months, rather than taking 2.5 years to return to the ridership/car and farebox levels established prior to expansion. The Commission requests that the Department seek its input and advice on the provisions to be included in the next marketing request for proposal.
- Establish short-term (2 years), intermediate-term (5 years), intermediate- to long-term (7 years) and long-term goals (10 years) for accomplishing its passenger rail element and freight rail element of its State Rail Plan. The Commission requests that the Department report on its goals as part of its quarterly progress report and that the progress be included in its next update of the 10-year plan, as well as in the Department's Annual Corridor Business Plans.

# **CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

## **Commission Consent to the Department of Transportation's Ten-Year California State Rail Plan 2007-08 Through 2017-18 Resolution G-07-**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) is required by Government Code Section 14036 to give its advice and consent on the Department of Transportation (Department) ten-year State Rail Plan; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the Department has prepared the California State Rail Plan for FY 2007-08 through FY 2017-18 in order to provide a comprehensive ten-year plan; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the California State Rail Plan at its December 2007 meeting; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Commission advised the Department that it should:
  - Include in its California State Rail Plan that the Department will work on providing limited express service (at least one round trip/day) between San Diego and Los Angeles. The Department shall include a report on the feasibility study in its 2008 Annual Corridor Business Plan for the Pacific Surfliner. Should the Annual Corridor Business Plan be delayed, the Department will report on the feasibility study not later than May 31, 2008 to the Commission.

The feasibility study shall include a plan, schedule, and estimate of cost to implement roundtrip limited-express service from San Diego to Los Angeles. The express service should have a transit time goal of about two hours on both the morning and evening trains. This would be accomplished by changing the existing schedule of the trains that run between San Diego and Los Angeles, using current intercity rolling stock and locomotives to provide the service.

The Department is directed to describe in its feasibility plan the benefits to be gained from changing the service such as advancing AB 32 green house gas emission reduction goals, traffic reduction and relief, shorter travel times, increased ridership and increased revenues. The Department should also address in the feasibility plan the policy, financial, inter-agency and operational challenges that may prevent it from meeting the goal of providing express service between San Diego and Los Angeles.

- Investigate providing internet access on its intercity rail trains. Specifically, the Department should determine the feasibility of offering a franchise to the private sector with agreed upon service performance measures, profit margins and the term length of the franchise. The Department will report back semi-annually on its progress to bring wireless broadband internet capabilities to its intercity rail trains and include the results in its next California State Rail Plan.
- Work with SanDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) to identify a suitable place for a layover facility. The Department will report semi-annually to the Commission on its progress in finding a suitable site. Once a suitable site has been identified, the Department should inform the Commission about the funding partnership formed to provide local, state and federal funds for the project, the contributions from each agency, and a schedule for delivering the layover facility. The Department will include the results in its next California State Rail Plan.
- Seek more innovative ways to market the State's intercity rail service, including tying its marketing contract to performance goals for increasing ridership by corridor. On new service, the Department should be able to increase ridership and farebox in a matter of months, rather than taking 2.5 years to return to the ridership/car and farebox levels established prior to expansion. The Commission requests that the Department seek its input and advice on the provisions to be included in the next marketing request for proposal.
- Establish short-term (2 years), intermediate-term (5 years), intermediate- to long-term (7 years) and long-term goals (10 years) for accomplishing its passenger rail element and freight rail element of its State Rail Plan. The Commission requests that the Department report on its goals as part of its quarterly progress report and that the progress be included in its next update of the 10-year plan, as well as in the Department's Annual Corridor Business Plans.

1.5 WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to incorporate the Commission's advice into its final California State Rail Plan.

1.6 WHEREAS, the Department has also agreed to report on its progress in implementing its State Rail Plan:

- by May 31, 2008 regarding limited express service between San Diego and Los Angeles;
- semi-annually on investigating the provision of internet access on intercity rail trains;
- semi-annually on working with SanDAG to identify a suitable place for a layover facility;
- quarterly on meeting its short-term, intermediate-term, intermediate- to long-term, and long-term goals for its passenger rail element and freight rail element.

2.1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission does hereby consent to the information contained in the California State Rail Plan and directs the Department to transmit to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Public Utilities Commission the State Rail Plan for FY 2007-08 through FY 2017-18.

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 9-10, 2008

Reference No.: 4.2  
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: William D. Bronte  
Chief  
Division of Rail

Subject: **CONSENT ON DRAFT CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN  
FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 Through 2017-18**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopt the attached resolution in which the Commission gives its advice and consent to the 2007-08 to 2017-18 California State Rail Plan (Plan).

## **SUMMARY:**

Government Code Section 14036 requires that the biennial Plan be submitted to the California Transportation Commission for its advice and consent, and then to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Public Utilities Commission by March 1, of even numbered years. The Draft Plan contains a passenger element prepared by the Department's Division of Rail and a freight element prepared by the Department's Division of Transportation Planning.

The Draft Plan was presented to the Commission at its December 2007 meeting for information (Tab 31). At that meeting, Commission staff, through a pink handout, provided direction (advice) to the Department on revisions to be incorporated into the final Plan to be presented to the Legislature in March 2008.

The Department agrees with the Commission's advice and will make the requested changes to the final Plan. Also, the Department will report to the Commission as part of its quarterly progress report on its progress in meeting the goals presented in the Plan.