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June 29, 2026

Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Draft SB 1098 LOSSAN Corridor Working Group Report
to the Legislature

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft SB 1098 Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Working Group Report. We appreciate CalSTA's leadership in convening corridor partners and advancing a discussion around the long-term reliability, resilience, and performance of the LOSSAN rail corridor. The corridor is a critical component of Southern California's passenger rail network and plays an important role in supporting regional mobility, intercity travel, economic activity, and state climate and transportation goals.

Overall, the draft report provides a useful overview of the challenges facing the corridor and identifies several areas where enhanced coordination, planning, and investment could improve passenger rail service. However, SCAG encourages CalSTA to strengthen the final report by more clearly defining accountability, implementation responsibility, and realistic performance expectations. As the corridor continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and manage service disruptions associated with slope stabilization efforts, shoreline landslides, and related track closures, it is important that recommendations be grounded in current and anticipated travel demand, ridership trends, fiscal conditions, and the operating realities facing corridor agencies.

To that end, the final report would benefit from a stronger accountability framework that identifies clear lead agencies, supporting partners, expected outcomes, and realistic timeframes for implementation. Many of the recommendations will require sustained coordination across multiple agencies, including state, regional, local, and operating partners. Clearly identifying which entity is responsible for advancing each task will help ensure that recommendations move beyond general coordination and can be implemented in a transparent and measurable way.

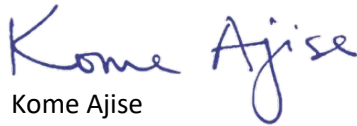
SCAG also recommends that the report more directly acknowledge changes in post-pandemic travel demand and service needs. Passenger rail markets have evolved since 2020, and future corridor planning should reflect how travel patterns, commute behavior, leisure travel, special event travel, interregional

mobility needs, and farebox recovery challenges have changed. Establishing goals that are ambitious but realistic in the current operating environment will better position the corridor for long-term success and help agencies align service planning, capital investment, and customer expectations.

In addition, while the report identifies important capital, resiliency, and coordination needs, it does not sufficiently address the ongoing operational funding challenges facing passenger rail operators along the corridor. Reliable operations are foundational to achieving the broader goals identified in the report. Without a sustainable and dependable source of operating funding, capital investments and planning efforts may not fully translate into improved service outcomes for riders. SCAG encourages CalSTA to include a stronger discussion of operational funding needs and the role the state can play in supporting long-term service stability, particularly for operating agencies facing significant fiscal constraints.

SCAG remains supportive of continued collaboration with CalSTA, corridor agencies, and regional partners to improve the reliability, resilience, and effectiveness of the LOSSAN corridor. We appreciate the work that has gone into the draft report and encourage CalSTA to refine the final recommendations to include clearer accountability, realistic post-pandemic goals, consideration of current and future travel demand, and a more direct discussion of operational funding needs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Courtney Aguirre, Manager of Mobility Planning and Goods Movement at SCAG, at (213) 236-1990 or aguirre@scag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kome Ajise
Executive Director