



**AFFILIATED AGENCIES**

*Orange County  
Transit District*

*Local Transportation  
Authority*

*Service Authority for  
Freeway Emergencies*

*Consolidated  
Transportation  
Service Agency*

*Congestion Management  
Agency*

July 2, 2026

CalSTA  
LOSSAN Rail Corridor Working Group Team  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: [LOSSAN.SB1098@calsta.ca.gov](mailto:LOSSAN.SB1098@calsta.ca.gov)

Subject: **OCTA Comments on the SB 1098 LOSSAN Rail Corridor Working Group Report (June 2026)**

Dear CalSTA LOSSAN Rail Corridor Working Group Team:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) extends its gratitude for the continued opportunity to participate in and provide input on the development of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Working Group Public Comment Draft Report (Report), dated June 10, 2026. This Report was prepared pursuant to SB 1098 (Chapter 777, Statutes of 2024). OCTA recognizes the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) commitment to engaging the LOSSAN Rail Corridor partners throughout this effort and appreciates the collaborative approach taken to identify strategies that strengthen reliability, resiliency, and long-term service delivery throughout the LOSSAN Rail Corridor.

OCTA values the extensive stakeholder outreach conducted to date and is encouraged to see that many of the themes previously discussed have been reflected in the current draft. OCTA appreciates the report's emphasis on coastal resiliency, streamlined emergency response procedures, coordination with the California Coastal Commission, corridor-wide asset management, and improved interagency collaboration. These recommendations represent important progress toward strengthening the long-term reliability and resiliency of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor.

OCTA would like to offer the following comments to strengthen the partnership between CalSTA and the LOSSAN Rail Corridor agencies:

- **Clarify Roles and Responsibilities:** Refine the report to more clearly distinguish the respective roles of the state, corridor owners, passenger rail operators, and freight railroads. While OCTA owns portions of the LOSSAN right-of-way in Orange County, passenger and freight rail operators are responsible for operational decisions, including service suspension, restoration, and day-to-day rail operations. Clearly defining

these responsibilities will improve the Report's discussion of emergency response authorities and decision-making responsibilities.

- **Enhance Permitting Recommendations:** Strengthen recommendations to streamline permitting and environmental review for projects that preserve and enhance existing rail infrastructure, particularly coastal resiliency and emergency stabilization projects.
- **Support Coastal Resiliency Initiatives:** OCTA supports the Report's recommendations related to coastal resiliency, emergency response, and coordination with state and federal agencies. Continued refinement should focus on expediting project delivery, streamlining emergency procedures, and ensuring the long-term protection of this critical transportation corridor.
- **Leverage Existing Governance Structures:** Emphasize opportunities to continue corridor coordination and service delivery within the existing governance framework before pursuing significant institutional restructuring.
- **Recognize Funding as the Primary Constraint:** Acknowledge that funding limitations remain a primary obstacle to advancing corridor priorities and capital improvements.

OCTA appreciates CalSTA's interest on this important effort and looks forward to continued collaboration as recommendations are further refined and advanced. OCTA remains committed to working with CalSTA, LOSSAN member agencies, passenger rail operators, freight railroads, and other stakeholders to improve corridor resiliency, maintain safe and reliable rail operations, and support the long-term viability of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor and the success of passenger rail service it provides.

Sincerely,



Dan Phu  
Director, Transportation Planning and Analysis

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