

BACKGROUND

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is committed to establishing and maintaining an effective transportation system for people that live, work, or play in the San Luis Obispo region. Providing effective and reliable travel options for area residents and visitors is critical for sustaining our quality of life. To that end, SLOCOG is conducting the *Coast Rail Corridor Study* to plan for future passenger rail service on the Central Coast.

OUR AIM

The *Coast Rail Corridor Study* will lay the groundwork for California's 2018 *State Rail Plan* by developing a phased plan for establishing a network of intercity rail and bus routes between Goleta and Salinas. The study will also examine the feasibility of developing commuter rail service between San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, and Paso Robles. The data from this study will be used to identify potential service options and assess potential costs, funding resources, infrastructure needs, and governance.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

SLOCOG is overseeing execution of this study on behalf of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) – a coalition of five regional transportation planning agencies, from Ventura to Santa Cruz, that work together to improve passenger rail along the coastal route. Other important partners include: the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, Caltrans, Amtrak, Union Pacific Railroad, and other agencies. Regional stakeholders and the general public are also critical partners in this endeavor, as we want to ensure that future rail plans meet the needs of our communities.

STUDY MILESTONES

MILESTONE 1	MILESTONE 2	MILESTONE 3	MILESTONE 4
Data Gathering Project Goals March - August 2020	Identify Service Options September - October 2020	Evaluate Service Options November - December 2020	Prepare Coast Study Plan January - June 2021
<p>1</p> <p>July 2020 Distribute Transit Survey Present study to CRCC Establish and host first Stakeholder Committee Meetings: • Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) • Community Working Group (CWG) Develop Outreach Tools Review relevant studies; gather data and initial input from partners, community stakeholders and the general public to refine project goals, objectives, and performance measures.</p> <p>August 2020 Present Study to SLOCOG Board to seek approval of Goals & Objectives Launch Project Website coastrailstudy.com Ongoing Stakeholder Coordination</p>	<p>2</p> <p>September 2020 CRCC Meeting Host second TAC meeting to present draft service options Host Virtual Public Meeting #1 Ongoing Stakeholder Coordination</p> <p>October 2020 SLOCOG Board Meeting Ongoing Stakeholder Coordination</p> <p>Identify Intercity and Commuter Rail service options that include information such as frequency, schedule, cities to be served, station locations, connecting services, technology, and governance. Options will be shared with partners, community stakeholders, and the public for feedback.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>November 2020 Ongoing Stakeholder Coordination</p> <p>December 2020 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) SLOCOG Board Meeting Host second CWG meeting to present draft service options</p> <p>Analysis and screening of service options, including: ridership forecasting, financial analysis, funding sources, and governance responsibilities. Analysis will also identify service implementation recommendations.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>March 2021 Technical Advisory Committee #3 CRCC Meeting</p> <p>May 2021 Community Working Group #3 Public Meeting #2 Ongoing Stakeholder Coordination</p> <p>June 2021 SLOCOG Board Meeting</p> <p>Develop intercity and commuter rail plans and recommendations for review and input by partners, community stakeholders, and the public. Present to SLOCOG Board of Directors for adoption.</p>



STUDY GOALS

- Establish more accessible and reliable service to better serve residents and visitors
- Provide more frequent rail service with improved connections
- Promote social equity, safety, and security
- Foster livable, healthy communities and stimulate the economy
- Increase environmental sustainability

FUNDING

Funding for this study came from three grant awards provided by Caltrans and CalSTA, including the U.S. Federal Transit Administration's Strategic Partnerships Program (Section 5304), State Highway Account, and State Rail Assistance.

GRAND TOTAL FOR THE ENTIRE STUDY: \$650,000

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



ENGAGE WITH US

Integral to this planning effort is a dynamic public outreach program that will proactively solicit participation from a diverse set of stakeholders, as well as current and future rail riders. SLOCOG is committed to providing safe and convenient opportunities for you to participate. The outreach program includes:

- Collateral Distribution
- Project Website
- Media and Social Media Communications
- Virtual Stakeholder Coordination, Briefings
- Virtual Public Meetings

For more information about participating in the *Coast Rail Corridor Study*:

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