

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JIM COPSEY, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO SENATOR CANNELLA FOR SENATE BILL 1197 INTERCITY RAIL CORRIDOR EXTENSIONS

BACKGROUND

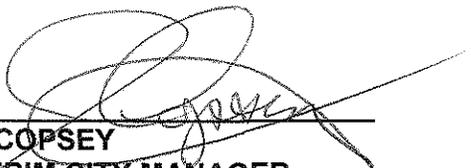
During the last Council meeting the Council agreed to agendize and possibly support sending a letter (Attachment 1) to Senator Cannella regarding Senate Bill 1197 (Attachment 2). SB1197 addresses intercity rail corridors and extensions. The bill, at any time after an interagency transfer agreement between the department and a joint powers board has been entered into, would authorize the amendment of the agreement to provide for the extension of the affected rail corridor to provide intercity rail service beyond the defined boundaries of the corridor. The bill would require a proposed extension to first be recommended and justified in the business plan adopted by the joint powers board, and then would require the approval of the Secretary of Transportation.

DISCUSSION

This bill would enable two emerging passenger rail projects planned for California's Central Coast to be operated by existing joint powers boards. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) has long advocated for an extension of passenger rail service from San Jose to Salinas. SB 1197 would allow the Capitol Corridor to extend south of San Jose, which will provide an alternative to the highly congested US 101 corridor to access jobs, education, and health care in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since 1992, the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, a coalition of coastal county transportation and planning agencies, has advocated for the Coast Daylight service as an extension of passenger rail service north of San Luis Obispo to San Jose/San Francisco. SB 1197 would allow the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor to extend north of San Luis Obispo, to close a gap in passenger rail service along the California coast.

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING


JIM COPSEY
INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Please Review for the Possibility of a Potential Conflict of Interest:

- None Identified by Staff
- Shoals
- Lee
- Bright
- Nicolls
- Shah

Meeting Date: March 21, 2016

Agenda Item No. 12

ALTERNATIVES

The Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. The Council could by motion provide an authorization to send a letter of support signed by the Mayor.
2. Provide staff with additional direction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Council authorize sending a letter signed by the Mayor to the Honorable Anthony Cannella in support of SB1197.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with sending the recommended letter.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Attachments:

1. Draft Letter to the Honorable Anthony Cannella
2. Senate Bill 1197

[Draft Letter to be considered at CC Mtg 03/21/2016]

March __, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Cannella
12th Senate District
State Capitol, Room 5082
Sacramento, CA 95814

SENT VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL
Tyler.Munzing@sen.ca.gov

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 1197 (CANNELLA); INTERCITY RAIL CORRIDORS: EXTENSIONS

Dear Senator Cannella:

On behalf of the City of Grover Beach, I am writing in **support** of Senate Bill (SB) 1197: Intercity rail corridors: extensions (as introduced, February 18, 2016). This bill would authorize the extension of intercity passenger rail service beyond the currently defined boundaries of the corridor, subject to inclusion in and approval of the relevant joint powers board's business plan. **The City of Grover Beach thanks you for authoring this bill.**

This bill would enable two emerging passenger rail projects planned for California's Central Coast to be operated by existing joint powers boards. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) has long advocated for an extension of passenger rail service from San Jose to Salinas. SB 1197 would allow the Capitol Corridor to extend south of San Jose, which will provide an alternative to the highly congested US 101 corridor to access jobs, education, and health care in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since 1992, the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, a coalition of coastal county transportation and planning agencies, has advocated for the Coast Daylight service as an extension of passenger rail service north of San Luis Obispo to San Jose/San Francisco. SB 1197 would allow the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor to extend north of San Luis Obispo, to close a gap in passenger rail service along the California coast.

Thank you very much for your authorship of this important bill and for supporting efforts to improve transportation in California.

Sincerely,

- DRAFT -

JOHN P. SHOALS
Mayor of City of Grover Beach

c: Hon. Bill Monning, 17th Senate District
Hon. Luis Alejo, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District
Ron De Carli, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

SENATE BILL**No. 1197**

Introduced by Senator Cannella

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian and Alejo)

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Mark Stone)

February 18, 2016

An act to add Section 14070.5 to the Government Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1197, as introduced, Cannella. Intercity rail corridors: extensions.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to contract with Amtrak for intercity rail passenger services and provides funding for these services from the Public Transportation Account. Existing law authorizes the department, subject to approval of the Secretary of Transportation, to enter into an interagency transfer agreement under which a joint powers board assumes responsibility for administering the state-funded intercity rail service in a particular corridor and associated feeder bus services. Existing law defines the boundaries of 3 intercity rail corridors, and requires the preparation of an annual business plan for the corridor by each participating joint powers board.

This bill, at any time after an interagency transfer agreement between the department and a joint powers board has been entered into, would authorize the amendment of the agreement to provide for the extension of the affected rail corridor to provide intercity rail service beyond the defined boundaries of the corridor. The bill would require a proposed extension to first be recommended and justified in the business plan adopted by the joint powers board, and then would require the approval of the Secretary of Transportation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14070.5 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:
3 14070.5. At any time after an interagency transfer agreement
4 between the department and a joint powers board has been entered
5 into, the agreement may be amended to provide for the extension
6 of the affected rail corridor to provide intercity rail service beyond
7 the defined boundaries of a corridor as described in subdivision
8 (b) of Section 14072, subdivision (c) of Section 14074, or
9 subdivision (c) of Section 14076. A proposed extension of a rail
10 corridor shall first be recommended and justified in the business
11 plan adopted by the joint powers board, and then shall be subject
12 to the approval of the Secretary of Transportation.

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