



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** February 16, 2010  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Dacé Morgan, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064  
**SUBJECT: Pacific Surfliner Schedule Revision – Letter of Support**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: No

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: No

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter to the Executive Director for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) expressing support for a schedule revision to the Pacific Surfliner train schedule.

**Summary Text:**

SBCAG is requesting the County's support to adjust the current Pacific Surfliner's train schedule between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The adjustments to the Pacific Surfliner service north of Los Angeles could make rail service an attractive commuting alternative to vehicle travel on Highway 101 between Santa Barbara and Ventura County. Adjustments to the arrival time of the train into Santa Barbara in the morning, and the departure time of the train to Ventura County and points south in the afternoon/evening, would align with commuter work day hours, thereby making the train an appealing alternative to commuting along the Highway 101 corridor. Reducing the number of vehicles along the Highway 101 corridor in the coming years is important as construction continues along the highway. The following represent the actual requested time changes to the schedule:

- Currently Train #799 departs Los Angeles Station at 7:30a.m. and arrives at the Santa Barbara Station at 10:12a.m. To achieve the stated goals of the proposal, Train #799 would be required to depart Los Angeles Station by 4:48a.m. to arrive at the Santa Barbara Station at 7:30a.m.
- Currently Train #798 departs San Luis Obispo Station at 2:00p.m. and arrives at the Santa Barbara Station at 4:31pm. To achieve the stated goals of the proposal, Train #798 would be required to depart the San Luis Obispo Station at 2:49p.m. to arrive at the Santa Barbara Station at 5:20p.m.

The Executive Director of SBCAG will be in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the requested revision to the Surfliner train schedule.

**Background:**

In the mid 2000's, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments commenced the "101 in Motion" transportation planning effort to evaluate methods to alleviate existing and future traffic congestion on the segment of Highway 101, between the City of Santa Barbara and the Ventura County line. The traffic modeling for this effort concluded that no single strategy alone (i.e. freeway widening or commuter rail) would effectively address the congestion. Both highway widening to six (6) lanes *and* a commuter rail service connecting the South Coast to the Oxnard/Ventura region would be required to effectively alleviate existing and future congestion on Hwy. 101.

Developing a commuter rail service will, over time, require significant investment in track upgrades, siding improvements, passenger station enhancements and the purchase of train sets. Implementing the proposed schedule adjustments to the existing AMTRAK Pacific Surfliner is a simple, cost-effective method to test ridership projections for a future commuter rail service. The schedule adjustment proposal would retime the arrival and departure times for two (2) existing trains to better match commuter travel times between the South Coast and the Ventura-Oxnard region.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative:

N/A

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

None

**FTEs:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward one copy of the certified stamped minute order to the attention of Gena Valentine Felix, Public Works Department, Transportation Division, ext. 3064.

**Attachments:**

Letter to the SBCAG Executive Director, expressing support for the schedule revision to the Pacific Surfliner.

**Authored by:**

Dacé B. Morgan, P.E., Deputy Director, Transportation Division, 568-3064