

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 29-30, 2022

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.21, Action

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Subject: Amendment to the 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program, Resolution G-22-50, Amending Resolution G-21-26

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve amendments to the 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program, with the following changes as reflected in the updated Program of Projects (Attachment A):

- Separate the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Freight Rail Improvements Project in Sonoma County into two phases.
- Redistribute program funds between the two program phases.

This amendment is consistent with the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program Guidelines.

Issue:

As the implementing agency, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests the Commission consider a program amendment to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Freight Rail Improvements Project. This program amendment would split an existing project into two individual phases, as reflected below and in Attachment A. Program amendments that preserve the original project scope, cost, and delivery timelines are allowable in the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program.

The Freight Rail Improvements Project includes repairs to the Black Point Bridge as well as freight spur upgrades and construction. The first phase will repair the Black Point Bridge and the second phase will upgrade and install new freight spurs along the rail line. Phasing the project will allow the first phase of the project to receive an allocation, enabling Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit to proceed with the Black Point Bridge repairs during the September 1 and November 30 construction window, as required by a United States Coast Guard regulatory permit. Phasing the project will also allow Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit to continue community and private sector coordination for the new freight spurs and upgrades that will occur in phase two.

This program amendment would amend the project delivery and title for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Freight Rail Improvements Project phase while preserving the original project scope and delivery timeline and maintaining the original programmed amount. Specifically, the amendment would:

1. Change the original project name from “Freight Rail Improvements Project” to “Freight Rail Improvements – Black Point Bridge Repair”
 - This project phase will repair the Black Point Bridge over the Petaluma River, stabilizing a critical phase of the east-west Brazos Branch connecting the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit mainline to the national rail network.
2. Add Freight Rail Improvements – Freight Spurs as a new project phase as follows:
 - This project phase will support the stabilization and connection of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit mainline to the national rail network east to west by upgrading two rail spurs and constructing a new rail spur along the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit mainline.
3. Redistribute the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program funding of \$1,456,000 between two phases as follows:
 - a. Freight Rail Improvements – Black Point Bridge Repair (\$206,000 in program funding)
 - b. Freight Rail Improvements – Freight Spurs (\$1,250,000 in program funding)

Background:

On June 27, 2019, the Governor signed Senate Bill 87, creating the Short-Line Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2019, which directed the Commission to establish a competitive funding program to allocate funds for short-line railroad projects such as railroad reconstruction, maintenance, upgrade, or replacement. The Commission’s guidelines, adopted at its June 24, 2020, Commission meeting, describe the policies, standards, criteria, and procedures for the development, adoption, and management of the 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program.

At the January 27, 2021, Commission meeting the Commission approved the 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program, programming over \$1.45 million for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Rail Freight Improvements Project.

Projects programmed in the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program do not require a baseline agreement.

Resolution G-22-50, Amending Resolution G-21-26

Be It Resolved, that the Commission does hereby amend the 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program with the following actions:

- Amend the project delivery and title for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit Freight Rail Improvements Project phase while preserving the original project scope and delivery timeline and maintaining the original programmed amount.
- Change the original project name from “Freight Rail Improvements Project” to “Freight Rail Improvements – Black Point Bridge Repair”
- Add Freight Rail Improvements – Freight Spurs as a new project.
- Redistribute the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program funding of \$1,456,000 between two phases as follows:
 - Freight Rail Improvements – Black Point Bridge Repair Total Project Cost \$412,000 (\$206,000 in program funding)
 - Freight Rail Improvements – Freight Spurs Total Project Cost \$2,500,000 (\$1,250,000 in program funding)

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Updated 2020 Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program of Projects

County	Applicant Agency	Implementing Agency	Project Title	Project Description	Total Project	Total Request Amount	Total Recommended Funding*	Fiscal Year
Modoc	Modoc County Transportation Commission	Lake Rail/Goose Lake Rail	Pit River Curves Track Rehabilitation in Modoc County	- Rehabilitate 1.25 miles of curve worn rail	\$870	\$440	\$440	2021-22
Sacramento	Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Sacramento Valley Railroad Capacity Expansion Project at McClellan Business Park	- Construction of two new tracks, 1,311 feet in length	\$1,400	\$670	\$670	2020-21
San Bernardino	Caltrans	Caltrans	Arizona & California Railroad Desert (ARZC) Rail Replacement Project	- Replace 3.8 miles of rail	\$2,800	\$1,420	\$1,420	2021-22
San Joaquin	San Joaquin Council of Governments	San Joaquin Council of Governments	Stockton Intermodal Transload and Alternative Fuel (SITAF) Project	- Replace 17,136 linear feet of rail and repair 3.61 miles of rail	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$1,800	2021-22
Santa Barbara	Caltrans	Caltrans	Santa Maria Valley Railroad (SMVRR) Track Rehabilitation Project	- Replace 1.6 miles of rail track with modern heavier rail	\$800	\$400	\$400	2021-22
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project	- Rehabilitate Pajaro River Bridge which carries Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line	\$670	\$290	\$290	2021-22
Sonoma	Caltrans	Caltrans	Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Rail Freight Improvements Project	- Repair Black Point Bridge over Petaluma River - Rehabilitate two existing freight spurs	\$2,900	\$1,460	\$1,460	
			Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Rail Freight Improvements Project - Black Point Bridge Repair	- Repair Black Point Bridge over Petaluma River	\$412	\$206	\$206	2021-22
			Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Rail Freight Improvements Project - Freight Spurs	- Rehabilitate two existing freight spurs - Construct one new modern freight spur	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250	2022-23
					\$13,040	\$6,480	\$6,480	

*Staff are recommending the amount requested for all projects.