



Subject: LOSSAN Rail Realignment

To the Honorable SANDAG Board of Directors,

RideSD is San Diego's premier transit education & advocacy organization, and Californians for Electric Rail is a coalition of Californians fighting for fast, clean, and safe catenary electric rail in California.

We write to express our strong support for rail realignment on the LOSSAN corridor. As the second busiest passenger rail corridor in the country, it is vital that this connection continues to be reliable for riders in San Diego, Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo.

We thank you for all the work you have done in evaluating multiple options to move the tracks of the bluffs where they are prone to erosion and experience extensive track closures.

We wish to express our explicit support for Option B of the proposed rail realignments for several compelling reasons:

1. **Reliability:** Any option will need to offer a reliable connection so that riders can rely on the service. As option B is implemented via a tunnel, it increases the reliability over a coastal track that is prone to erosion or landslides.
2. **Speed and Efficiency:** Option B offers the fastest travel times between San Diego and Los Angeles, significantly reducing commute times for passengers. This improved efficiency will encourage more people to choose rail over car travel, aligning with our goals of reducing traffic congestion and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Economic Impact:** Faster travel times will enhance the economic connectivity between San Diego and Los Angeles. This can lead to increased business opportunities, tourism, and overall economic growth for both cities and the surrounding regions.
4. **Environmental Benefits:** A faster rail service will attract more ridership, thereby decreasing the number of cars on the road. This shift is crucial for our efforts to combat climate change and improve air quality in our communities.

Regardless of which option is picked, we firmly recommend electrification via overhead wires across the whole corridor. **This includes making sure the tunnel clearances will accommodate overhead wire.**

In conclusion, we urge SANDAG to prioritize the needs of the whole of Southern California, the environment, and the economy by selecting rail alignment Option B. This choice will ensure a faster, more efficient, and environmentally friendly rail service between San Diego and Los Angeles, benefiting residents and travelers alike. We hope that SANDAG shares our vision of consistent service speed between 110 and 125 mph to make the train a viable alternative to driving.

Thank you for considering our position on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Leif Gensert
Board Member, Co-Founder
RideSD

Adriana Rizzo
Member
Californians for Electric Rail