



MEMORANDUM

TO: PCTPA Board of Directors

DATE: April 14, 2010

FROM: Celia McAdam, Executive Director

SUBJECT: RAIL TRAFFIC ISSUES

ACTION REQUESTED

None. For discussion only.

BACKGROUND

Passenger Rail Service

The Board has a long standing policy to aggressively pursue additional passenger rail service to Placer County. This has involved working closely with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) in addressing the interests and needs of Union Pacific as we pursue their permission to add passenger trips. After more than 10 years of these efforts, we still remain at one round trip per day.

Recent efforts, however, have provided some hope for progress. Specifically, as was discussed with the Board at your December 2009 and January 2010 meetings, Union Pacific has expressed a willingness to discuss additional passenger service as part of a package of improvements that would benefit both freight and passenger capacity. Efforts are ongoing with CCJPA and UP to draft a Memorandum of Understanding to outline these complex details, including funding partnerships, specific track improvements, passenger capacity commitments, and potential relocation of the Roseville rail station.

In anticipation that such an agreement can be reached, PCTPA and CCJPA, with the support of SACOG, have been working to obtain funding for the expected capacity improvement needs between Sacramento and Roseville.

Freight Rail Service

Under the Interstate Commerce Act, Union Pacific has the right to run as many freight trains as they safely have capacity for.

Recent improvements funded solely by Union Pacific have raised the tunnel heights over the Donner Pass, allowing double stack trains that previously used the Feather River route to use the shorter Donner route in Placer County. The additional traffic has generated questions and concerns from the general public.

DISCUSSION

Staff has invited CCJPA Managing Director David Kutrosky and Wes Lujan, Government Relations Manager, to discuss the future of rail in Placer County and how changes to track capacity – for both passenger and freight - could affect local residents.