



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

December 4, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

Subject: **Authorization to Submit Comment Regarding the 2018 California State Rail Plan Requesting that Pomona Be Considered as An Ideal Location for the “San Gabriel Valley Hub,” with Corresponding Rail Improvements and Investments**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a comment regarding the 2018 California State Rail Plan, requesting Pomona be considered as an ideal location for the “San Gabriel Valley Hub” with corresponding improvements and investments (subject to environmental review and approval).

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

Previous Related Action – None.

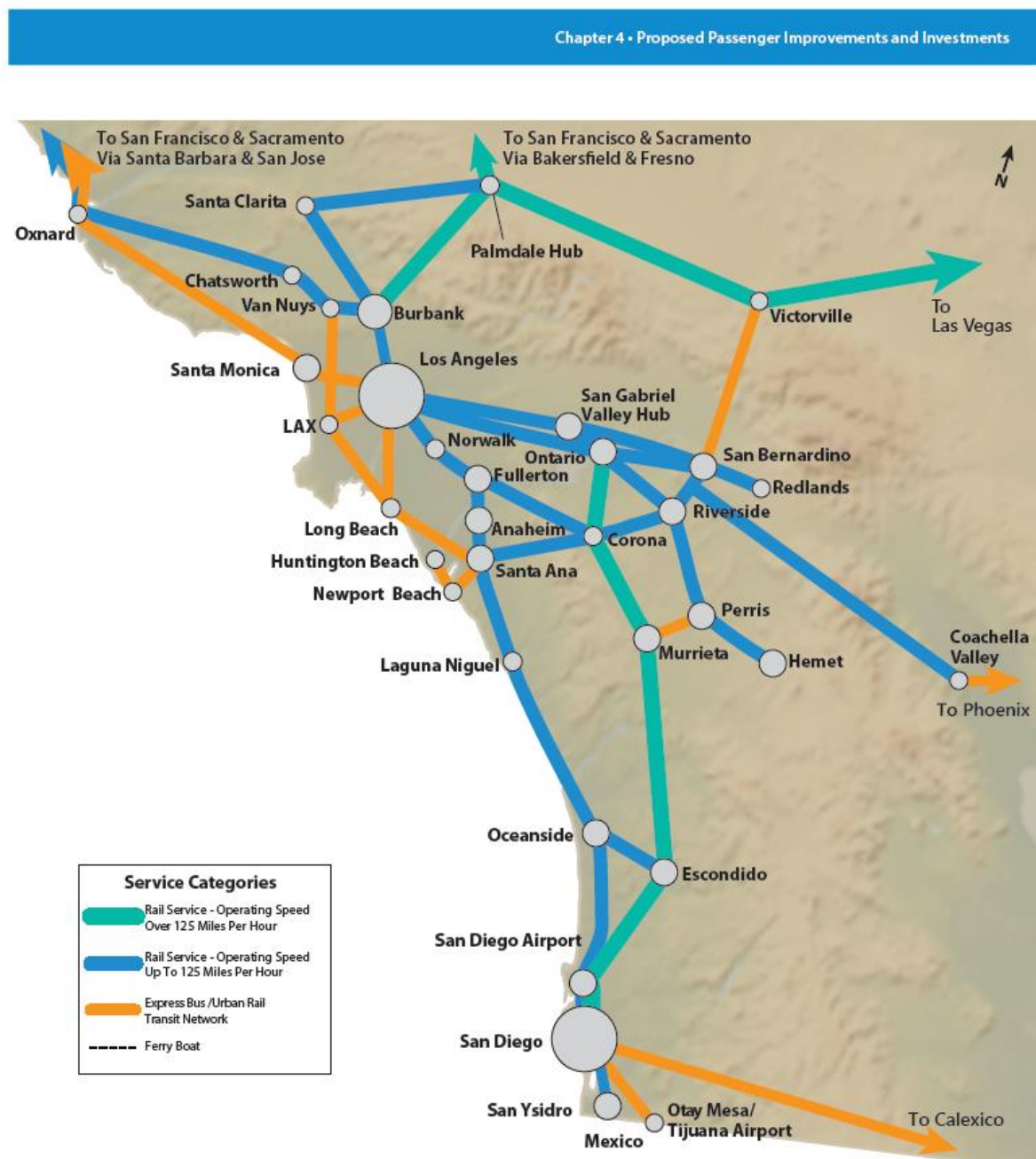
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the recommended action would result in the City Manager submitting a comment to the State regarding the 2018 California State Rail Plan on behalf of the City requesting that Pomona be considered as an ideal location for the “San Gabriel Valley Hub” (Pg. 2 of Attachment 1), along with corresponding passenger improvements and investments.

DISCUSSION

California is the 6th largest economy in the world, with an annual gross domestic product of over \$2.4 trillion. Rail is an efficient, safe, and cost-effective way to move goods that are part of that economy. Because energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions per ton carried are far lower than diesel trucks, increased efficiencies of the freight rail system can reduce environmental impacts, travel times and costs. California’s population is expected to grow to 50 million by 2040 causing continued pressure on the State’s aging transportation infrastructure. A more extensive, efficient rail network—including electrified rail — can reduce the transportation sectors’ substantial GHG emissions and add resiliency to the transportation system.

For these reasons, the State of California has been developing the 2018 California State Rail Plan (Attachment 1). This plan addresses all types of rail facilities throughout the State, with a planning horizon of 2040. The Rail Plan is a strategic plan with operating and capital investment strategies intended to lead to a coordinated, statewide travel system for the next 20 years and beyond. While the plan identifies both freight and passenger strategies throughout California, the subject of this report is rail improvements for the Southern California area. The following excerpt from the plan identifies the San Gabriel Valley Hub but does not specify a location.



The State of California is accepting comments regarding the 2018 California State Rail Plan through December 11, 2017. Staff is recommending that the City Council authorize submitting Pomona for consideration as an ideal location for the “San Gabriel Valley Hub.” The potential advantages and disadvantages to the City are as follows:

Advantages

- + More potential opportunities for future Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
- + Opportunity to build Pomona’s prominence in the rail mode of transportation to serve as incentive for other economic development, relocation/expansion of businesses to Pomona, etc.
- + Attracting higher traffic volumes of other modes of transportation to the City*.
- + Construction* (jobs, radiated economic impacts/spending, etc.).
- + Increased access to alternate modes of transportation and destinations.
- + New Corridors (may revitalize adjacent areas, and/or provide more choices)*
- + Others (unknown / to-be-determined).

Disadvantages

- Compromises/delays to other modes of transportation.
- Visual, noise, and other environmental impacts.
- Construction* (temporary: delays, noise, etc.).
- Attracting higher traffic volumes of other modes of transportation to the City*
- New Corridors (may be seen as a source of division)*
- Others (unknown / to-be-determined)

*Items denoted with asterisks above may be both advantages and disadvantages

While the Hub details are yet to be determined, Staff’s initial evaluation of the potential disadvantages to having the “San Gabriel Valley Hub” in Pomona are that the potential for benefits and economic gains from the hub would outweigh the potential challenges. Therefore, Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a comment to the 2018 California State Rail Plan where the City of Pomona is highlighted as an ideal hub location for the San Gabriel Valley region. Should the State designate Pomona as the “San Gabriel

Authorization to Submit Comment Regarding the 2018 California State Rail Plan Identifying
Pomona as Ideal Location for San Gabriel Valley Hub
December 4, 2017
Page 4 of 4

Valley Hub”, it is anticipated additional studies and related evaluation of environmental impacts
would be performed by the State with Pomona’s review and input.

Attachment: 2018 California State Rail Plan Information

Prepared by: Matt Pilarz, Sr. Civil Engineer

17-1171