

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEW STUDY LOOKS AT INCREASING RAIL OPTIONS FOR THE CENTRAL COAST** *SLOCOG to hold virtual meeting for public input on September 30th*

**San Luis Obispo, Calif. (September 24, 2020)** – What will the future of rail transportation look like on the Central Coast? That’s one of the questions the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) plans to discuss in a virtual public meeting planned for September 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The webinar-style presentation will delve into the *Coast Rail Corridor Study*, which is examining commuter and intercity rail service options to identify viable plans for future rail travel within the San Luis Obispo region and beyond. This study, being conducted by SLOCOG and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC), will develop a phased plan for achieving an integrated network of intercity rail and bus routes in the San Luis Obispo region, with increased frequency and connections between Goleta and Salinas. For commuter rail, the study will examine the feasibility of implementing future commuter service from Paso Robles to San Luis Obispo, and from Santa Maria (via Guadalupe) to San Luis Obispo.”

“An essential aspect of this study is getting input from current and future rail and transit riders in our region,” said SLOCOG Public Information Officer and Project Manager Anna Devers. “SLOCOG is committed to understanding the needs of its communities and is offering safe, convenient, and transparent engagement methods for the public to participate in this study during the pandemic. Key elements of that strategy include a virtual public meeting and ongoing stakeholder coordination.”

During the virtual meeting, the project team will discuss intercity and commuter rail service options, including information such as frequency, schedule, cities to be served, station locations, connecting services, technology, and governance. There will also be opportunity for public feedback and questions. To attend the meeting, please register at: [bit.ly/SLOCOG\\_CRCS\\_Public\\_Meeting](https://bit.ly/SLOCOG_CRCS_Public_Meeting)

SLOCOG and the CRCC also invite you to participate in their first of two rail surveys for the study: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLOCOG\\_Rail\\_Studies\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLOCOG_Rail_Studies_Survey). The project team has extended the deadline for participating in this survey until October 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue to gather feedback through the meeting.

To learn more about the *Coast Rail Corridor Study*, visit [www.coastrailstudy.com](http://www.coastrailstudy.com). Questions and comments can also be emailed to [info@coastrailstudy.com](mailto:info@coastrailstudy.com) or submitted directly on the website.

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**About San Luis Obispo Council of Governments**

*The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments ([SLOCOG](#)) is an association of local governments in the San Luis Obispo County Region. Its members include all 7 cities (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo) as well as unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. The central purpose of SLOCOG is to examine common regional problems and suggest solutions. SLOCOG provides transportation planning and funding for the region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region's long-range transportation plan, SLOCOG plans and provides funding for public transit services, highway and roadway improvements, and other alternative methods of transportation.*

**About the Coast Rail Coordinating Council**

*The Coast Rail Coordinating Council ([CRCC](#)) is a coalition of five transportation agencies along the Central Coast that are focused on improving the frequency, speed, reliability, and ease of use of passenger trains on the coastal route between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Membership includes the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments ([SLOCOG](#)), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments ([SBCAG](#)), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission ([SCCRTC](#)), Transportation Agency for Monterey County ([TAMC](#)), and Ventura County Transportation Commission ([VCTC](#)). Other participating agencies include the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN), Caltrans, and LA Metro.*