

Clerk Sara Meisenheimer -

I will take this opportunity to submit **Public Comment for the LOSSAN Executive Committee Meeting Thursday February 1, 2024 at 9:00a.**

Comments are **submitted below, in writing.**

I also plan to **attend the meeting and personally deliver the comments, from the Solana Beach City Hall Teleconference Location** identified in the Agenda.

* * * Public Comment to LOSSAN Executive Committee * * *

My name is Dave White, San Diego resident, and founder and director of the Blind Stokers Club (BSC), enabling recreational bicycling access to members who cannot see well enough to pilot a bike, but can share all the joys of cycling with a partner on a bicycle built for two. As a tandem cyclist and Amtrak rider for over 25 years, i have been asking for “longbike” accommodations on Amtrak Cab cars. I guess you could say my moment of advocacy clarity came 19 months ago when i brought the challenge to this LOSSAN Executive Committee - to expand bicycle access on Pacific Surfliner routes to include tandem bikes operated by BSC members and a large number of fully sighted tandem enthusiasts living in or traveling through the LOSSAN corridor.

I am before the Committee today to offer my sincere thanks and hearty congratulations to all who have been responsible for reaching a tipping-point milestone in the project, and secondly to learn about the remaining steps and schedule to complete the project, including build-out and website changes to inform and allow passengers to reserve rack space for their tandems.

Personal thanks to LOSSAN Agency representative Jay Ellis for occasional status updates on the project.

About that tipping-point: Early last month, Jay emailed me post-alteration photos of the first Surfliner Cab car upgraded for tandem bikes!

That’s when my dream became real.

My immediate questions - to bring this project into LOSSAN stations - and bring tandem cyclists and their bikes onboard are:

1. What is the tandem bike capacity in each retrofitted car? Maximum combined capacity of tandem and single bikes?
2. Can single bikes still be racked in the legacy corral on the opposite side of the car (securing devices not shown in drawing)?
3. Is the first completed Cab Car available for tandem bike travel, or for a private demo run for me and a blind stoker cyclist?
4. What is the status of the related updates to the Amtrak website bicycle information and reservation system, to support tandem cyclists?
5. What is the total number of Cab Cars in the Pacific Surfliner inventory and eligible for the subject retrofit?

6. What is the phased implementation plan for tandem bikes on Pacific Surfliner routes, so available equipment put in service can be enjoyed by passengers traveling with tandem bikes, without delay until ALL applicable cars are retrofitted?

7. When will retrofit of all eligible cars be completed?

PR opportunity: Would the Committee be interested in seeking some positive internal publication or outside media coverage associated with this ADA compliance and tandem class cyclists inclusion produced by LOSSAN for corridor riders? Other benefits include green bimodal rail+bike travel and personal fitness.

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[Blind Stokers Club](#)