

Solana County California

RAIL SERVICES

Planning Context

Rail service in Solano County is provided by several rail lines. One line is a primary Union Pacific line that carries substantial amounts of freight between Bay Area ports and the rest of the country. Other smaller and spur lines also exist.

In addition, an existing passenger-service rail line, operated by Amtrak, runs through Solano County. The trains on this line offer both regional connectivity (Capitol Corridor) and national connectivity (California Zephyr and Coast Starlight). Capitol Corridor operations have increased significantly since 1997, and studies and proposals to add railway stations in Solano County and add service on the line are under way.

This potentially affects the unincorporated portion of Solano County in several ways, as described below.

Expansion of Rail Capacity. Because the rail corridor is already in high use for both freight and passenger service, there may be additional interest in adding tracks and possibly expanding the rail right-of-way.

Grade Separations. The proposal for additional rail service through the county will increase interest in constructing grade separations. The need for grade separations will depend on roadway volumes, train lengths and duration of blockage, and overall design and safety issues such as sight distance and speeds. New at-grade crossings of public roads are generally discouraged.

Compatibility with Surrounding Land Uses. Freight rail is often a mode that carries hazardous materials. The trains also sometimes move quickly and can be very difficult to stop. Land use proposals adjacent to rail tracks should consider the needs of rail operations for safety, speed, and reliability.

Implementation Programs

Funding, Physical Improvements, and Capital Projects

TC.I-15: Participate in programs to construct overpasses or underpasses at potentially dangerous and highvolume street locations that cross active railroad tracks.

Related Policy: TC.P-18

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Federal and state funds

Time Frame: Ongoing



Coordination with Other Agencies and Organizations

TC.I-16: Support responsible improvements to track capacity so that both passenger and freight rail, including transportation of hazardous materials, can be operated without delays through Solano County.

Related Policies: TC.P-18, TC.P-19

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Federal and state funds

Time Frame: Ongoing