

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

E – Excused
P(A) – Alternate

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Grant Leonard	TAMC staff	McGregor Eddy	Salinas Californian columnist
Guy Preston	High Speed Rail Authority	Chris Flescher	Salinas resident

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C LeBarre/Rubio

Committee Member LeBarre noted that he attended the American Public Transportation Association annual meeting, and is now a member of the Rail Standards Committee.

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 1, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Recommended that the Board approve a Memorandum of Understanding among the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, the City of Salinas, and Monterey-Salinas Transit, regarding the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center expansion.

3.3 Received report from the American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference.

3.4 Received the call for nominations for the fifteenth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the High Speed Rail Authority.

Guy Preston, High Speed Rail Authority, reported that the State's High Speed Rail project is a transformative investment that will connect California's cities and help the State meet its climate change goals. The Authority's new business plan calls for construction of the first segment between the Central Valley and San Francisco, with start of service expected by 2025. Mr. Preston noted that the Merced to San Jose corridor is currently undergoing environmental review.

Committee Member LeBarre asked if the Authority has funding available for self-help counties that provide connecting services. Mr. Preston said that he sees the value in being a self-help county, but that the Authority does not currently have funding available for connecting services.

Committee Alternate Harvath asked if the Authority has gone out to bid for trainsets. Mr. Preston said the Authority has not gone out to bid yet, but that the Authority first needs to sell bonds before soliciting bids.

Committee Member Sabo asked about train service frequency. Mr. Preston said that the project will be designed for six trains per hour between Gilroy and San Jose during peak hours, but service will initially start with two trains per hour.

Committee Member Boden asked how fast the trains would go. Mr. Preston replied that trains will run at a top speed of 210 miles per hour, and 110-125 miles per hour on the Caltrain corridor.

Chair Potter expressed his support for the High Speed Rail project. Chair Potter commented that regional transit connectivity is key for High Speed Rail's success, and that the Salinas passenger rail extension and Coast Daylight projects support this connectivity.

5. COAST DAYLIGHT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Coast Daylight project.

The Coast Daylight is a joint Caltrans/Amtrak effort led by the Coast Rail Coordinating Council to extend an existing Pacific Surfliner train that currently runs between San Diego and San Luis Obispo up to San Jose. The Agency is currently working on the Federal environmental review for the rail corridor between Salinas and San Jose, and a public draft is expected in January 2017.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported the progress since the last update to the Committee in August includes a Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee meeting in Monterey on August 11, and Technical Committee meeting on September 16. Ms. Watson reported that the Council held a goal setting and visioning session to develop a two-year and five-year plan. The two-year plan includes the task of seeking a champion for the project at the State and Federal levels, seeking funding and reintroducing legislation for operation. The five-year plan includes seeking funds and working with Union Pacific.

Chair Potter noted that the loss of the \$25 million bond allocation was unfortunate, but that he was encouraged by the Council's renewed commitment to the project. He noted that funding for a dedicated staff person and legislative support will help bring this project to fruition. Chair Potter noted that he is interested in staying on with the Council after January.

Committee Member LeBarre noted that King City is committed to seeing service begin, and recently acquired the right-of-way for the King City train station.

6. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Ms. Watson noted that the progress since the last meeting in August includes discussions with the Capitol Corridor, Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency. Ms. Watson reported that the Capitol Corridor is in the midst of a paradigm shift governing the planned expansion from seven to eleven round trips between Oakland and San Jose. The plan to add new train trips has been deferred, pending funding for right of way improvements to increase track capacity between Oakland and San Jose and provision of dedicated passenger rail tracks.

Chair Potter noted that it is worth approaching Caltrain again as a possible short-term operations solution. He noted that the Capitol Corridor service will benefit from gaining passengers along the

Salinas to San Jose corridor once Caltrain electrifies its service.

7. DRAFT RELOCATION PLAN

The Committee received the Transportation Agency's draft Relocation Plan for the Salinas Rail Extension project, and provided comments.

Michael Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported the Transportation Agency has authorized the preparation of a Relocation Plan for the Salinas Rail Extension project. He noted that the purpose of the Relocation Plan is to ensure that persons displaced because of the Salinas Rail Extension project are treated fairly, consistently and equitably and to ensure that the Agency follows Federal regulations when acquiring real property. The Relocation Plan will be presented to the Board of Directors following a 30-day public review period.

Chair Potter noted that property acquisition is a complex process and thanked staff.

8. CLOSED SESSION: REAL ESTATE ACQUISITIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section §54956.8, the Committee conferred with agency staff concerning the acquisition of properties for the Salinas train station, reconvened in open session, and reported that no actions were taken.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

10. ADJOURN

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.