

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

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1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Don Reynolds City of Salinas

McGregor Eddy

Salinas Californian

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C LeBarre/Craig/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the October 3, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Approved the 2017 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

Committee Member Craig pulled this item to note she is unavailable for the January 9, 2017 meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. COAST DAYLIGHT UPDATE

M/S/C Rubio/Stratton/unanimous

The Committee received an update on the status of the planned Coast Daylight train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles and recommended Board appointment of Dave Potter to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress since the last update to the Committee about the Coast Daylight on October 3, 2016, includes a Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) Policy Committee meeting on October 13. Ms. Watson reported that the Policy Committee discussed the next steps after the August visioning session, and other issues such as legislative efforts and a Caltrans planning grant application.

Ms. Watson reported that the federal environmental review of the Salinas-San Jose corridor continues. A public draft of the document is expected in January 2017, with the goal of completing the document by May 2017. Ms. Watson noted that the Federal Railroad Administration has requested more time for review.

Ms. Watson noted that Chair Potter will be leaving office in January 2017, but has expressed willingness to continue representing TAMC on the CRCC. The CRCC Policy Committee has expressed support for him to continue as Chair. Ms. Watson noted that appointing Dave Potter to continue representing TAMC on the CRCC would maintain TAMC's leadership role on that body, and continuing Mr. Potter's long and respected experience on that body would benefit TAMC and the Coast Daylight project.

Committee Member LeBarre noted his appreciation for having Chair Potter continue to be involved in the Coast Rail Coordinating Council.

5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that progress since the last update to the Committee about the Salinas Rail Extension project on October 3, 2016 includes a presentation to the Salinas City Center Improvement Association, a property owner improvement district funded by property tax assessments. Ms. Watson reported that the warming shelter came up as a topic of discussion, and noted that TAMC staff will be attending the Association meetings. Progress since the last update also includes a meeting with Salinas City staff and City Councilmember Kimbley Craig to discuss the Salinas station improvements.

Ms. Watson reported that Agency staff met with Caltrain General Manager and CEO Jim Hartnett to discuss the Salinas Rail Extension project and other issues. Mr. Hartnett noted that Caltrain is electrifying its rail line between San Francisco and San Jose, with service expected to begin by 2021. Ms. Watson also noted that Measure B, Santa Clara County's transportation sales tax measure, includes funding for increasing Caltrain service to Gilroy.

Ms. Watson reported that Agency staff had a meeting with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). CalSTA staff expressed support for the Salinas Rail Extension, and noted that a short-term extension of Caltrain service might be a way to get service to Salinas in advance of the Capitol Corridor's San Jose-Oakland expansion project. CalSTA is also negotiating with Union Pacific, with a meeting planned in Omaha in December.

Chair Potter asked if Caltrain would be open to a Salinas extension. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that Caltrain has many issues, and has begun a new long-range planning process. Ms. Hale said that being part of Caltrain's visioning process would be a good opportunity to revisit a Caltrain extension to Salinas.

6. 2017 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Committee received and commented on the draft 2017 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. She noted that the program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the agency.

Chair Potter noted that the Agency's legislative program serves as a platform for Agency legislative action.

Committee Member Craig commented that Amtrak is not popular among federal legislators. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that much of Amtrak's funding goes to the Northeast Corridor, despite California's high Amtrak ridership and State support.

7. OUTGOING RPC CHAIR APPRECIATION

The Committee presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chair Potter.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that the Committee wishes to recognize Supervisor Dave Potter for his 23 years of distinguished service to rail projects in Monterey County. She

noted that Chair Potter has represented District 5 on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors since 1996, representing Big Sur, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach and Salinas. He has been an outspoken advocate for rail projects for that entire time, including as Chair of the Rail Policy Committee and as Chair of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. She note that in that role he has represented Monterey County at the State and Federal levels, helping to seek and secure funding for rail projects in the region.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Mike LeBarre announced that he will be attending the California Transit Association Conference on November 16 on behalf of Monterey-Salinas Transit.

9. ADJOURN

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.