

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Draft Minutes of August 6, 2018
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	AUG 17	SEPT 17	OCT 17	NOV 17	DEC 17	JAN 18	FEB 18	MAR 18	APR 18	MAY 18	JUN 18	AUG 18
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	N	P	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	A	E	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)	P(A)	N	E		P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	P	P	E	P	E	-	P	E	P(A)	E	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	E	P	L	E	E	P	P	L	P	P	L	-
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	P	P	L	E	T	P	P	L	P	P	L	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	E	E	P	I	P	E	E	E	P(A)	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	D	P	N	-	P	D	P	P	D	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P		P	G	-	P		-	-		-
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)	P	P		P		P	P		P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	E	-		-		-	-		-	-		-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		-		-	-		-	E		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	E		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-		-		-	-		-	-		-
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P		P		P	E		P	P		P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P		P		E	P		P	P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P		P	P		P	P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P		P	P		P	P		P
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner	P	E		P		-	P		P	P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	-		-		-	-		-	-		P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Hierling	AMBAG	Ivan Garcia	Resident
Cheryl Ku	Monterey County	Paul Powers	Resident
Brad Tarp	Resident	Jennifer Russell	MNS Engineers
Chris Flescher	Resident		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Rubio/ Stratton/ unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 7, 2018 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. MST BUS ON SHOULDER/MONTEREY BRANCH LINE STUDY

The Committee received a presentation on the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and the Monterey Branch Line.

Lisa Rheinheimer, MST Director of Planning & Marketing, presented an update on the MST Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and in the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the study analyzed traffic data to confirm congestion times and analyzed operations on different segments of Highway 1 shoulders, the Monterey Branch Line and along city streets. Currently, there is no preferred alternative. However, the Study's analysis showed that bus operations in the Monterey-Branch Line would yield the greatest travel times savings and has an acceptable cost-benefit ratio.

Operating the bus on the shoulders of Highway 1 turned out to be very expensive.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the segment between Marina and the Highway 1 and Fremont Blvd. intersection in Seaside along the Monterey Branch Line was one of the top performing segments in the Study's analysis. Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the next steps for the Study are to initiate environmental review and preliminary design.

Committee alternate Askew asked about conflicts between the bike path and the Monterey Branch Line. Ms. Rheinheimer said this would be analyzed during the environmental review phase and noted that the intent would be to maintain safe access for the bike path.

Committee alternate Askew asked if the bus service might continue when light rail begins. Ms. Rheinheimer said bus service and light rail service are complementary.

Committee alternate Anderson asked about TAMC's role in this project. Executive Director Hale said that this project is a precursor for light rail service.

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, asked about the speed of buses if they are operated in the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. Ms. Rheinheimer said this is something that will be analyzed during the design phase, but that bus speeds would likely be faster than the median speed of traffic on the parallel roads or highway during commute hours.

Executive Director Hale noted that improving the bike path and ensuring safe connections is something TAMC staff is working on. She also noted that TAMC is interested in studying improvements to the Highway 1/ Fremont Blvd./ California Ave./ Monterey Rd. intersection.

Brad Tarp, resident, asked about the businesses on the Monterey Branch Line. Committee member Rubio commented that the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way is generally 100 feet across, and that TAMC's leases to businesses on the Branch Line are temporary.

5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on May 7, 2018 include execution of a contract for demolition of structures in preparation for construction of the Lincoln Avenue extension, execution of a contract for the acquisition of properties in preparation for the Salinas train layover facility, and meetings regarding operations and outreach. Ms. Watson reported that staff worked with Caltrain to develop a draft schedule for train operations. The schedule will be used by Union Pacific for the rail line capacity analysis study.

Committee member Delgado asked if there have been increases in the cost of construction for the project. Ms. Watson said that is something TAMC will not know until construction bids are opened. She noted that the latest engineer's estimates are only a few weeks old. Ms. Watson noted that demolition bids came in below the engineer's estimate.

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported that staff has been coordinating the community outreach for the upcoming Lincoln Avenue extension groundbreaking. Jennifer Russell, MNS Engineers, reported that the feedback the outreach team has gotten on the project so far has been very positive.

Brad Tarp, property owner, asked about the schedule for Package 2 acquisitions. Ms. Watson said the schedule is dependent on the plat maps and legal descriptions, which must be done prior to appraisals. Executive Director Hale said that property acquisitions are negotiations and details are not discussed in open meetings.

Committee member LeBarre asked about the UPRR capacity study limits. Ms. Watson said that the capacity study would be from Gilroy to Salinas. Committee member LeBarre asked who the lead would be for the King City station capacity analysis. Ms. Watson said Amtrak would likely be the lead.

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, suggested that staff and the design team look at station electrification for on-platform charging of trains.

6. COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

M/S/C Delgado/LeBarre/unanimous

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and recommended that the Board approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Coast Rail Coordinating Council.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the CRCC Policy Committee met on July 16, 2018 and approved a revised Memorandum of Understanding. The revised MOU has minor editorial changes and removes references to the staff “Technical Committee”.

Committee member LeBarre noted that the group is a good example of partnerships.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, announced that this is Virginia Murillo’s last Committee meeting. Ms. Murillo announced that she is leaving TAMC and starting graduate school in the fall.

George Dondero, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, announced via email to the Committee that Progressive Rail has filed with the Surface Transportation Board to begin operations in Santa Cruz County. He also announced that the lawsuit filed against the Regional Transportation Commission by Greenway is not affecting freight operations on the Santa Cruz Branch Line. Mr. Dondero announced that the presentation from the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit at the Regional Transportation Commission is available online.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.