

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Draft Minutes of May 6, 2019
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	C	N	P(A)	P(A)	C	P	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	A	O	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	N		P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)		P(A)	N	E	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	C	M	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	L	E	P	-	L	P	E	P	L	P	L	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	L	T	-	-	L	E	T	P	L	P	L	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	E	I	P	P	E	P	I	P	E	P	E	-
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	D	N	P	P	D	-	N	-	D	-	D	-
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)		G	P	P		P(A)	G	-		P		P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)			-	-		P		-		P		-
D. Potter, At Large Member										-		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)			-	-		-		P(A)		-		P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5			-	-		P		-		-		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, L. Rheinheimer)			P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director			P	E		P		P		E		E
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director			P	E		P		P		P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner			P	P		P		P		P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner			P	E		P		P		P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator			P	P		P		P		P		E
M. Montiel Admin Assistant				P		P		P		P		P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer						P		P		E		P

1. **QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Kim Cruz	Sand City Councilmember	Brad Tarp	Salinas Resident
Jennifer Russell	MNS Engineers	Don Reynolds	City of Salinas
Todd Kennedy	City of San Juan Bautista	Ginger Dykaar	SCCRTC
Cheryl Ku	Monterey County RMA	Paul Powers	Salinas Resident

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None this month.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Oglesby/ Smith /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the March 4, 2019 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start Project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported on recent progress on the Monterey County Rail Extension Project. Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that Agency staff is working the City of Salinas on relocation of their sanitary sewer to Railroad Avenue and the storm drain to the future Lincoln Avenue Extension alignment, and that both relocation projects are expected to start late May or early June. She noted that once the utility relocation projects are complete, TAMC's construction contractor MPE will relocate Cal Water lines and stage the construction of the Lincoln Avenue extension, anticipating completion of all work by the fall of 2020.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that recent work preparing for the acquisition of parcels for Package 2, the Salinas layover facility, include the completion of a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and plats and legal descriptions of the partial acquisitions. He noted that now that those activities are complete, ARWS can initiate the appraisal process. Mr. Zeller noted that they found arsenic on one parcel and would need to get a cost estimate for clean it up in order to proceed with the acquisition.

Ms. Watson reported on other projects underway by other agencies that may affect the Package 3 work in Gilroy or along the rail corridor between Gilroy and Salinas, and that staff will prepare a Request for Proposals for final design of Packages 2 and 3 after meeting with Caltrain, the State, and Union Pacific on the 75% plans and move forward with negotiations for track rights and encroachment or acquisition of Union Pacific right of way in Salinas.

Committee member Potter expressed that the letter from Caltrain (included in the packet) is the closest TAMC has ever been to securing an operator for the service.

Committee member Smith noted that in the letter from the City of Salinas, City Manager Ray Corpuz highlighted issues with the storm drain and sanitary sewer in Station Place. Don Reynolds, City of Salinas Assistant Public Works Director, noted that the relocation plans were changed to work around conflicts with AT&T in West Market, and that the project team are working to resolve conflicts with CalWater in Railroad Avenue. Ms. Williamson noted that some of the buildings for which the sanitary sewer was needed are no longer there, and the relocated lines will serve the existing users and the future bioswales in the new parking lots.

Brad Tarp, resident, expressed that there should be no arsenic on his property, due to the water pollution clean-up that was done, and that the only restriction is a prohibition on drilling wells. He stated that he has previously provided Mr. Zeller with a copy of the document from the State Water Board clearing the property of contamination.

5. COAST CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that progress since the last update on the coast rail project includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee in Santa Barbara on March 8. The Committee approved bylaws and a contract with Gus Khouri for legislative assistance. She said that in March, the State announced two State Rail Assistance grant awards. She noted that the next Policy meeting is rescheduled for May 31 in San Luis Obispo.

Ms. Watson noted that in April, CRCC Chair Dave Potter, RPC Chair Mike LeBarre, and Ms. Watson attended the 7th annual California Passenger Rail Summit in Oakland.

Committee member Potter noted that he attended the Rail Summit and there were over three hundred people and it seems to be growing each year. He noted that the opportunity to network with other rail operators to collaborate was great and was a good conference that included an enlightening tour of transit-oriented developments in Richmond and Emeryville.

Committee member Smith asked why a temporary platform on King City. Chair LeBarre noted that a temporary platform is the minimum investment needed to get the train to stop. The State is motivated to get it going soon and having a stop will build ridership and help get more funding for further investments in a station. Mr. Smith noted that the City of Monterey provides services for Fort Hunter Liggett via an intergovernmental services agreement with the Presidio thinks that could be leveraged for additional funding.

Committee ex-officio alternate Harvath requested to be included in the planning of the King City station.

6. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY

The Committee received an update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that on April 24, the TAMC Board approved a contract with AECOM to perform a Monterey Bay Area Network Integration Study and noted the anticipated reports to the RPC were outlined in the staff report.

Chair LeBarre asked how the study would be coordinated with work being done in other areas, such as the Service Implementation Plan in San Luis Obispo County. Ms. Watson replied that she would make sure that studies being done in connecting regions will be coordinated.

Committee ex-officio alternate Hierling requested to be included in the Rail Network Integration Study.

Ms. Watson reported that Agency staff was approached by Dennis Lowery of Lowery Capital Partners inquiring about the potential for a privately-run rail service in the County, connecting Marina, Santa Cruz, and Gilroy or San Jose.

Committee member Smith noted the letter to Mr. Lowery (included in the packet) was well worded and made it clear that the Agency must follow certain rules as a public agency. He asked if there are other examples of privately-run railroads in California. Ms. Watson replied the only one she knew of is in Florida. Committee ex-officio Harvath (originally from Florida) noted the difference would be population density along the corridor.

Committee member Adams asked if the project should be considered a Public-Private Partnership (P3). Deputy Executive Director Todd Muck noted TAMC would consider it a P3 project as the Agency owns the Branch Line they would want to run on.

Committee member Potter reported that he met with Mr. Lowery and noted that as developers, they want a rail service to connect with their developments, and that they seemed open to only running from Monterey to Santa Cruz, with connections to the future service to Gilroy/San Jose.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), noted that the RTC completed a Santa Cruz Branch line feasibility study known as the Unified Corridor Investment Study. She reported that the RTC voted unanimously to protect the rail corridor right-of way for future mass transit operations. Ms. Dykaar noted that the RTC will work with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District on an alternatives analysis. In conclusion Ms. Dykaar noted that RTC also received funding from the state for a network integration study.

Committee member Potter asked about the current condition of the branch line. Ms. Dykaar reported that trains currently cannot run north of Pajaro due to multiple washouts and disruptions from this winter's rains.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.