

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of June 1, 2020

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	JUL 19	AUG 19	SEP 19	OCT 19	NOV 19	DEC 19	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	C	-	-
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)		E	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	M	P(A) TC	C	-	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	E	P	L	P	-	E	P	P	P	L	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	T	P	L	-	-	T	P	P	P	L	P	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	I	P	E	P	P	I	P	P	P	E	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	N	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	G	P		-	P	G	P	-	P		P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)		-		P	P		-	P	-		P	P
D. Potter, At Large Member		P		E	E		P	P	P		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)		P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5		-		-	-		-	-	-		P	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		-	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P		P	E		E	P	E		P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director		P		P	P		P	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
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator		-		E	P		-	-	P		P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P		P	P		P	P	P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		E		P	E		P	E	P		E	P
Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner				P	P			P	P		P	P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Cook	TAMC staff	Alan Miller	Caltrans
Katherine Hansen	County Counsel	Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Doug Yount	Shea Homes		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Davis/ Smith/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 4, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CENTRAL COAST HIGHWAY 1 ELKHORN SLOUGH RESILIENCY STUDY

The Committee received a presentation and provided comments on the draft Central Coast Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Heather Adamson, Director of Planning, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, who presented on the draft Central Coast Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Study. Ms. Adamson reported that transportation corridors through Elkhorn Slough will face significant challenges under conditions of climate change and sea level rise. Ms. Adamson noted that flood projection shows inundation of the Moss Landing Harbor, Highway 1, rail corridor and adjacent areas. She noted that without action we will lose 50% of marsh and mudflat and transportation will be severely impacted. The study presents a detailed understanding of the risks and options for adaptation in this critical stretch of Highway 1 and the railway corridor, as well as an adaptation management strategy to ensure updated scientific information is integrated into the project planning process.

In conclusion, Ms. Adamson noted that the study emphasizes the importance of starting planning for Highway 1 and railway adaptation in the early to mid-2030s and implementing a course of action well before sea levels are predicted inundate the corridor in mid-to late-21st century. The draft study was released for review on May 12, 2020. The close of the public review period is June 11, 2020.

Committee Alternate Stratton thanked Heather for the thorough yet succinct presentation and mentioned that this issue has been on District 2's top transportation concern list for the past 5 years.

5. FORD ORD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Committee received an update on Agency activities related to property management and development opportunities for 12.1 acres of Agency land on the former Fort Ord.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, introduced Jim Cook, Retired Annuitant, who reported that Agency staff have implemented a variety of actions to enhance management of the property on the former Ford Ord and explore future development potential.

Committee Member Smith asked about the plans for development adjacent to TAMC property. Doug Yount, Shea Homes, replied that Phase 2 of The Dunes development, which largely surrounds the TAMC property, has been approved and is now moving forward. It was noted that the timeframe for the development of the adjacent City of Marina Arts District is uncertain.

Committee Alternate Askew spoke in support of demolition of the buildings. She also noted that the site will have significant development potential based on high visibility from Highway 1 and asked what potential development is contemplated.

Executive Director Debbie Hale responded that Agency staff will explore a variety of land use options. Mr. Cook noted that the designation of the property is “mixed use” in the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan but it is designated for “public facility” use in the University Villages specific plan. Ms. Hale also noted that TAMC’s goals, as discussed in past Committee visioning sessions, are to capitalize on future transportation opportunities while raising funding to cover costs of such transportation projects. She stated that TAMC would coordinate with the City of Marina, the Dunes developers, and the Marina Coast Water District to ensure their plans support future development of the TAMC property.

Committee Member Delgado complimented TAMC staff for the recent cleanup of the Monterey Branch Line corridor.

6. SURF! BUSWAY UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project along the Monterey Branch Line from Marina to Sand City.

Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner, reported that Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway project in Fall 2019. She noted that MST and TAMC staff continue to meet with stakeholders. The project team has generally received good input and positive feedback from engaged stakeholders. The team is investigating alternatives to an 8th Street multimodal stop. One alternative is at 5th Street, where both MST and TAMC have properties. In conclusion, Ms. Jacobsen noted that the project team is planning to institute a virtual public outreach program. As part of the outreach, the project team is developing video simulations.

Lisa Rheinheimer, MST, noted that State Parks concerned about the bus stop on 8th street due to impacts to sensitive habitat and their campground project. MST is considering an alternative that might be better for a potential transit center through 5th Street on MST’s

property. She noted that both the 5th Street and the 8th Street stations would be evaluated in the environmental review. She noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic has made the team rethink public engagement strategies. They are planning on virtual public outreach meetings.

Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, noted that the team still hopes to arrange for an in-person tour of the Branch Line for interested RPC members when the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

Committee Member Delgado asked about the cost implications if the busway were to pave over the tracks, for both the busway and the planned eventual light rail service. Staff responded that the team would consider the cost aspects in the engineering study.

7. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported construction team continues to make progress constructing the Lincoln Avenue Extension and parking improvements. Ms. Williamson noted that the new traffic signals at W Market and Lincoln Avenue are on timers until signal loop detectors are installed. Stage 1 improvements (Lincoln Avenue Extension and parking improvements) are expected to be completed on June 8, 2020, and the construction team expects to complete stage 2 (Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza) before October 2020. TAMC staff will coordinate a ribbon cutting ceremony in the fall.

Committee Member Davis expressed concerns that the City of Salinas is working on cleaning up homeless encampments along the rail line but is having trouble coordinating with Union Pacific. Executive Director Hale asked to be included if the City has future meetings with Union Pacific representatives.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to negotiate for the acquisition of five parcels in Salinas for the train layover facility.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff continues to work with Caltrain and is reviewing the draft High-Speed Rail environmental documents, for which comments are due June 23.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, announced that there is no July meeting and the next Committee meeting is on August 3, 2020. She also noted that the Rail Network Integration Study survey is now live and asked Committee Members to help spread the word.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.