

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of August 4, 2020

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

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

Tracy Burke-Vasquez	TAMC staff	Brad Tarp	Public
Ryan Park	AECOM	Tarah Brady	Public
Justin C Fox	AECOM	Paul Powers	Public
Lukas Yanni	AECOM		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/ Anderson/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 1, 2020 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.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the construction team continues to make progress on Package 1. Stage 1 improvements (Lincoln Avenue Extension and parking lots) were completed in June, and the construction team is working to complete stage 2 (Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza) by mid-November 2020. TAMC staff will coordinate a ribbon cutting ceremony in the month of December 2020. She also noted staff will be going to the August TAMC Board for an amendment to the agreement with MNS Engineers for construction management. Staff are requesting \$106,377 in additional funds which is less than 2% of the original contract.

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. He noted that the cases have been filled with the court and we are in contact with property owners.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the HDR final design contract has been approved and executed, and a kick-off meeting was held on July 15. She noted that TAMC continues to coordinate with Caltrans/CalSTA on negotiations with Caltrain and UPRR, and staff will bring an RFQ to the Board in August to assist us on getting operations agreements. Ms. Watson noted that Caltrain is pivoting their business plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and equity and racism issues. Controversy is now swirling over a proposed November 2020 ballot measure to support operations. Ms. Watson noted that Andy Cook would be presenting in October an update on the 2022 state rail plan.

Vice Chair Potter asked whether COVID-19 is expected to impact our extension project. Ms. Watson replied that TAMC continues to monitor the impacts on the rail and transit industry, and that TAMC is still moving forward with the fully funded project.

5. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park, Justin Fox and Lukas Yanni with AECOM. Mr. Park reported that progress on the study since the last report to the Committee includes completion of a draft future service vision memo. He noted that a public survey was published on June 2, 2020 and closes on September 15, 2020.

Mr. Yanni presented the Network Integration Study survey responses. He noted that over 470 people have taken the survey, primarily Monterey Peninsula residents, indicating strong support for the rail concepts presented by the survey and a high tolerance for longer rail trip times as compared to the parallel drive.

Committee Member Davis suggested ideas for improving outreach to Spanish-speaking communities, such as reaching out to “Building Healthy Communities”.

Chair LeBarre recommended contacting Spanish-language news agencies.

Committee Member Chavez noted that news media Radio Bilingue and La Preciosa have big Spanish-speaking audiences.

Committee Alternate Askew offered to help with outreach to schools, and recommended TAMC ask Maya to circulate the survey during the weekly Monterey County Media briefing.

Committee Alternate Stratton asked how many respondents we need for grant applications. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that grant applications are based on ridership estimates, not survey results, but that the survey helps to raise public awareness of projects.

Committee Member Davis noted that a multimodal network with rail as the focal point will help with the City of Salinas’s economic development goals.

Committee Alternate Anderson asked whether the study was accounting for decreased rail and transit ridership due to the pandemic. Mr. Park replied that the study was focused on a post-pandemic future scenario but that the survey included a free response section where many people wrote in that cleanliness was a top priority, which is likely a response to the pandemic.

Chair LeBarre asked the team to add the City of Soledad and the City of King City to maps.

6. 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 the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy group held a meeting on July 17 to discuss the status of the service implementation plan and passenger rail improvement study for the central coast corridor.

Christina Watson noted that SLOCOG also has a survey out. Ms. Watson will forward the link to the committee.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.