

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT Minutes of June 7, 2021
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

[illegible]

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lukas Yanni	AECOM	Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas
Barry Scott	Friends of the Rail and Trail	Sophia Cho	Carmel High (Intern)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Committee Member Craig introduced her intern, Carmel High Junior Sophia Cho.

Barry Scott announced that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) Board might bring back the rail business plan for another vote. He noted that a train demonstration project on the branch line could happen in fall 2021.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Craig /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 3, 2021, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

3.3 Received update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start Project.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 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/Seaside.

Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner, reported that the 35% design plans are currently under review by both TAMC and MST staff. The project team also held a recent coordination meeting with Caltrans District 5 staff.

Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit, reported that MST released a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration on March 2021. She noted that Monterey Salinas Transit released a 30-day environmental public review period that was open from March 13 through April 12. A public hearing will be held at the June 14 MST Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that MST is actively coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration to apply for Capital Investment Grant. The project team anticipates applying again to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program this upcoming cycle.

The Committee provided the following input on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project:

- Concerns with the environmental issues
- Concerns with coastal access
- Coordination with State Parks
- Solicit input/support from rail groups

5. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY OPEN HOUSE

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

Lukas Yanni, AECOM, presented on the Network Integration Study virtual open house, available via the project website. He noted that comments on the draft study are due June 30. The final study will be presented to the Committee on the August 2 and to the TAMC Board on August 25 for adoption.

The Committee provided the following input on the draft Network Integration Study virtual open house:

- Concerns about inappropriate discussions on the website
- Consider posting link on social media to increase participation
- Appreciate the google translator tool option

6. RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING TIME

M/S/C Craig/Potter/unanimous

The Committee voted to return the meeting start time to 3:00 p.m. starting in August 2021.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the Committee approved temporarily changing the meeting time at 2:00 p.m. in February, with reconsideration of the meeting start time to be discussed at the June meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member Bruce Delgado mentioned the handcar demonstration project was looking to begin operations in July or August. He noted that the project proponent had an issue with the 90-day lease within which they are allowed a 30-day operation period. Ms. Watson responded that the TAMC Board authorized a 90-day lease based on access needed for cleanup prior to and following operations, and that TAMC Counsel was reviewing the question about maximum operation days as related to the environmental clearance for a demonstration project.

Committee alternate Kim Cruz noted that more homeless tents seem to be going up along the path. Committee member Bruce Delgado will discuss with Kim Cruz and TAMC staff, in as much as the issue pertains to TAMC property.

Christina Watson announced there is no Committee meeting in July and the next Committee meeting is on August 2, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.