

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of September 13, 2021

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	SEP 20	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21	FEB 21	MAR 21	APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	-
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	N	P(A)	-	P(A)	E	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		E	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave , C. Courtney)	C	P(A)	E	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	L	-	-	-	P	L	-	-	P(A)	E	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	L	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	E	T	E	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	I	P	-
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	D	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)		-	-	P	P		P	P	P	G	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)		-	P	-	P		-	P	P		P	-
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair		P	P	-	E		P	P	P		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)		P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5		-	-		P		-	-	-		-	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P	P	P	P		P	P	P		E	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director		P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner		P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner		P	P	P	P		P	P	E		P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator		-	P	P	P		P	-	P		-	-
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		P	-	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
M. Jacobsen, Assoc. Transportation Planner		P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer							P	-	-		-	-

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Williams	RailPros	Octavio Hurtado	City of King City
Benson Kwong	Caltrans	Tarah Brady	Caltrans

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Smith /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 2, 2021, Rail Policy Committee meeting.
Committee Member Oglesby joined after consent.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 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 Lon Angeles, including a status update on the King City Multimodal Transit Center project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15 with the goal of having an in-person meeting, potentially in Monterey. She introduced Octavio Hurtado, City Engineer for the City of King, and Robert Williams with Rail Pros, who presented an update on King City's Multimodal Transit Center project.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Monterey Bay Compatible Use Study by military recognized that the project incorporated Fort Hunter Liggett security needs in the designs and suggested the project could be a candidate for the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program.

Committee Member Smith suggested that Mr. Hurtado reach out to Andrea Renny, City of Monterey, as she has extensive military contacts via the intergovernmental service agreement.

5. SURF! BUSWAY PROJECT

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, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project is part of a larger effort to build a modern mobility network for the Monterey Peninsula and beyond.

Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit, reported that MST is the Lead Agency for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Ms. Rheinheimer noted that two CEQA lawsuits have been filed on the project challenging the Senate Bill 288 Statutory Exemption and arguing that MST should have prepared a full environmental impact report and evaluated alternatives for the project. Ms. Rheinheimer also reported that MST is continuing to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant and Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant to support future phases of the project.

6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROOJECT UPDATE

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

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that in terms of Package 1 construction, the team continues to work toward project completion. She noted that the State Stormwater permit has been closed, Caltrans is in the process of closing out the permit for work relating to Hwy 183 (Market St), and the City of Salinas should be closing out the permit shortly, now that the sidewalk crack near the Granary has been fixed. Once permits have been closed, remaining work is landscaping maintenance through December 2021. Ms. Williamson noted that staff plans to bring the Notice of Completion to the TAMC Board in December.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that staff continues to coordinate with the City of Salinas on the Package 1 land transfer.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on the five parcels for the Salinas layover facility. He noted that staff has put a Request for Proposals on the September Board agenda to assist with negotiations with Union Pacific for four parcels in Gilroy and one in Salinas.

Ms. Watson noted that staff will also bring a contract amendment to the September Board for Package 2 and 3 design elements identified during the California Public Utilities Commission diagnostic site visit in Gilroy in August. Staff is also working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TAMC and Caltrain outlining the process towards an operating agreement and a MOU among TAMC, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City of Gilroy for improvements near the Gilroy train station. Ms. Watson noted that staff is also working on a Fund Transfer Agreement between TAMC and Caltrans, to transfer \$1,615,000 of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding to help fund the Positive Train Control project between Gilroy and San Luis Obispo.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPTIONS

The Committee received an update on the status of COVID-19 Brown Act exemptions and provided input on preferences for in-person meeting locations.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that the Governor's Executive Order extends the pandemic-caused exceptions to the Brown Act that enable virtual meetings until September 30, 2021. She mentioned that after that date, absent an extension of the Executive Order, meetings are expected to return to in-person.

Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant, noted that we are looking for meeting location that would enable appropriate social distancing and the option for teleconference technology for future Rail Policy Committee meetings.

The Committee had the following input on the preferences for in person meeting locations:

- Consider meeting outdoors
- Consider the Monterey County fairgrounds
- Consider expanding the search to locations that charge a fee
- Consider the Monterey Conference Center
- Consider contacting the County
- Consider meeting at Monterey Peninsula College
- Some committee members can participate from council chamber locations, if they post the agenda in advance and permit public participation at that location

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson announced the next Committee meeting is on October 4, 2021, at 3 pm.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.