

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of March 7, 2022

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	E	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		E	P(A)	P	P(A)		P	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave , C. Courtney)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	E	M	P(A)	P(A)	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	A	A	P(A)	E	P	P	P	P(A)	E	A	A	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	P	P	E	T	E	P	A	P	T	P	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	P	I	P	A	P	P	I	A	A	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	P	G	P	P	P	P	G	P	P	A
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	A	P	P		P	A	A	P		A	P	A
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	P	P	P		P	P	A	E		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)	P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	A	A	A		A	P	P	A		A	A	A
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	E		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		P	P	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		P	P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P	P	E		P	P	P	P		P	P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	P	A	P		A	A	A	A		A	A	A
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		P	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		P	P	P
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P	A	A		A	A	A	P		P	P	P
A. Guther Assis. Transp. Planner								P		P	P	P

TC: via teleconference; VC: via video conference

P = Present

A = Absent

P(A) = alternate present

E = Excused

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Benson Kwong	Caltrans Headquarters	Jeffrey	Public
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2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Anderson/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the February 7, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SURF! BUSWAY AND BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Doug Bilse, Principal Engineer, presented on the proposed SURF! Busway that is a 6-mile bus-only corridor parallel to State Route 1 to be constructed along the Monterey branch line rail right-of-way. Mr. Bilse noted that the community engagement opportunities will be ongoing through the next year. The project expects to go out to bid for the construction in 2024 and start operation in 2027.

Committee Member Medina-Dirksen asked for more information on the community engagement and what efforts are used to outreach to people with disabilities. Lisa Rheinheimer, MST, replied that the plan is to reach out to community groups and churches. The MST Mobility Center will help with outreach to persons with disabilities. Starting in late April, outreach efforts will include onsite pop-ups, engagement opportunities, and an online engagement tool through Social Pinpoint. MST continues to work with City of Marina staff and will have another site visit.

Executive Director Todd Muck noted that all transportation projects must be state of the art for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

5. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the Monterey County Rail Extension Project won awards for the construction of Package 1, the parking and circulation improvements at the Salinas train station.

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming and Project Delivery, reported that staff continues to coordinate with Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City of Salinas. Mr. Zeller noted CTC deferred the approval of the property transfer to the May CTC meeting.

Mr. Zeller reported that the Agency is pursuing the acquisition of five privately-owned parcels for the layover facility for Package 2. He noted that the TAMC Board approved the contract with Bender Rosenthal to assist with Union Pacific Railroad property acquisition.

Ms. Watson reported that the design plans are at 90% and aim to have 100% plans in August. Staff will bring a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gilroy and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for improvements at the Gilroy train station to the March 23 Board for adoption.

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, Director of Planning, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) reelected Dave Potter as their chair at their meeting on February 25, 2022.

Committee Member Potter noted that he has chaired the CRCC for over 24-years and wants to intensify the group's lobbying efforts for rail.

7. RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

The Committee discussed how to conduct future Committee meetings.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that it is recommended that the Committee discuss how and where to conduct future in-person meetings, in light of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, allowing the Transportation Agency Board of Directors and Committee to meet remotely, is expected to be lifted at some point this year.

Committee Member Craig noted she supports the flexibility allowed by virtual meetings but would like to meet in person for controversial topics.

Committee Member Medina-Dirksen asked for best practices be sent out to committee members for being present in a meeting.

Chair LeBarre reported that it sounds like we are okay to stay remote until August then likely hybrid from the TAMC conference room.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Potter suggested a discussion for lobbying efforts to discuss at a future meeting date.

Committee Member Craig noted that she will be in D.C. next week and would be happy to meet with Mr. Potter and Paul Schlesinger, TAMC's legislative analyst, while she is there.

Chair LeBarre noted that the City of King City was happy to hear that Union Pacific responded back from Amtrak's request for additional Coast Star light train stops. They sent a letter saying they are open to a new station in King City.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.