

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of September 12, 2022

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

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

A. Guther Assis. Transp. Planner	-	P		P	P	P		P	E		P	P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A	A		A	A	A		A	A		P	A
J. Strause Transportation Planner	-	-		-	-	-		-	-		P	A

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 3:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sam Sargent	Caltrain	Guy Preston	SCCRTC
Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC	Paul Guirguis	Caltrans
Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas	Alex Lopez	Caltrans
Brad Tarp	Public	Tarah Brady	Caltrans

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter / Craig /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the Augst 1, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RAIL LINE UPDATE

The Committee received an update from Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on their rail corridor studies.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, introduced Guy Preston, Executive Director, and Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner, from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Mr. Preston reported that in 2016, the Measure D local transportation sales tax measure was passed, which included 8% for rail corridor preservation and analysis of options, and 17% for active transportation, including the 32-mile Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in the rail right-of-way. Mr. Preston noted that the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis completed in 2021 concluded that electric passenger rail was the best option for the rail corridor. Ms. Goodman noted that a request for proposals is out now for consultants to prepare conceptual plans and environmental review of the proposed projects in the rail corridor.

Chair LeBarre asked about a park-and-ride lot in the Pajaro, Watsonville area to enable passengers to park and ride the rail into Santa Cruz. Brianna Goodman replied that the plan envisions a park and ride lot at each end of the corridor.

Committee Member Potter noted that a connection to the Monterey Branch Line would be great for passengers traveling to Santa Cruz.

5. SALINAS RAIL: CALTRAIN OPERATIONS DISCUSSIONS

The Committee received an update from Caltrain on next steps in the operations discussions for the Salinas Rail extension project.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, introduced Sam Sargent, Caltrain Director of Strategy and Policy, who presented an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project. He noted that TAMC staff and Caltrain staff have been holding regular meetings to discuss the strategy for implementing operations on the corridor, noting the next step is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Committee Member Craig thanked Mr. Sargent for his work to further the project to extend train service to Salinas and noted that the City of Salinas has invested in the downtown area. Mr. Sargent replied that he is planning a visit to Salinas soon.

Executive Director Todd Muck thanked Sam Sargent for attending the meeting and noted that he will present a similar presentation at the September Board meeting. Mr. Muck noted that the team is building a great partnership and an MOU is a good starting point for getting service implemented in Monterey County.

Chair LeBarre asked about the funding available for zero-emission trains, recognizing the need for diesel service in the near term until those new trains are available. Mr. Sargent noted that both state and federal funding is becoming available for zero-emission train equipment.

6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming and Project Delivery, reported that the City Salinas City Council and TAMC Board approved the revised transfer agreements in August. He noted that Transportation Agency staff have submitted a request for approval of the land transfer to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for consideration at their October 12, 2022, meeting. Mr. Zeller reported that negotiations for the acquisition of properties needed for the Salinas layover facility (Package 2) and Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are ongoing.

Brad Tarp, member of public, asked about the long timeframe for the City to approve a lot line adjustment. Mr. Zeller replied that he can reach out to the City of Salinas staff to facilitate the process; he noted that once the final order of condemnation is approved by the court, the new

lot lines will be automatically generated. Committee Member Craig asked that staff provide Mr. Tarp with her contact information if she can assist staff in resolving this issue.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that HDR completed the 100% plans for packages 2 and 3 and distributed them to our partner stakeholder agencies on September 1.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro station Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) application was unsuccessful. She noted that staff met with Caltrans recently and they informed us adding a capitol component to the application might improve the project ranking. Ms. Guther noted that Agency staff will continue to look for other funding sources for the project.

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.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, invited Committee Members to a field trip to the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) on October 25, 2022. She noted that the trip would include a tour of their operating center and a train ride.

Committee Alternate Anderson and Committee Member Craig asked to arrange a separate trip for those who cannot make it on Tuesdays, which presents a conflict with Board of Supervisors and many city council meetings.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that on August 19 the Policy Committee met to discuss legislative items and hear updates from partner agencies, including from Caltrans about the intercity bus plan and freight plan. In conclusion, Ms. Watson noted that the City of King City train station was not awarded a highly competitive federal grant, but that the team would seek alternate funding for the project.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit provided an update on public outreach efforts for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.