

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of November 7, 2022

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

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

Senior Engineer												
D. Bilde, Principal Engineer		P	P	P		P	A		P	P		P
A. Guthe,r Assis. Transp. Planner		P	P	P		P	E		P	P		P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator		A	A	A		A	A		P	A		P
J. Strause, Transportation Planner		-	-	-		-	-		P	A		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 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Brianna Goodman SCCRTC Vinz Koller Public
Kakani Katija Public

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Committee Member Medina Dirksen mentioned that the Marina Hand Car business is starting to set up shop. She noted that they are setting up the fence this week and they are hoping to be operational in the next few weeks. Executive Director Todd Muck replied that TAMC just got the lease agreement last week and that the hand car reps need to do a few more things to comply with the terms of the lease agreement before they can enter TAMC property.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter / Anderson /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the September 12, 2022, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received the call for nominations for the 21st Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups, or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

M/S/C Potter / Oglesby /unanimous

The Committee received and commented on the draft 2023 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the legislative program helps guide staff and consultants in responding to legislative proposals. She reviewed the changes from the 2022 adopted program, highlighting the issues on the draft program of key interest to the committee.

Committee Ex-Officio Alternate Hierling noted that the Central Coast Coalition is seeking an “alternative fuel corridor” designation for the US 101. He noted AMBAG is seeking funds for a hydrogen fuel study for freight transportation. He suggested adding support for hydrogen fuels to the state and federal legislative programs.

Executive Director Todd Muck noted that TAMC staff had a refreshing meeting with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) last week. Ms. Watson noted that the federal program includes an item advocating the removal of barriers between commuter and intercity rail.

5. 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 of Salinas City Council and TAMC Board approved the revised land transfer agreements and Transportation Agency staff have re-submitted the revised request for approval of the land transfer to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for consideration at their December 7-8, 2022 meeting

Committee Member Craig acknowledged TAMC’s hard work and noted that the City of Salinas has had a few transitions and expressed she would be glad to assist by writing a letter or showing up in person.

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. He noted that the Tarp family is seeking a “no further action” letter from the Water Board regarding the arsenic contamination to enable us to move forward with the project. Mr. Zeller noted that TAMC now owns the Selby property, and we are waiting for the final order of condemnation.

Committee Member Potter asked if the Tarps understand it is a State Water Board responsibility at this point. Mr. Zeller replied that their attorney is aware, and he can check to confirm the family knows the status.

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 in September 2022, and we continue to hold design review meetings. Ms. Watson noted that we recently were alerted to conflicts at the Gilroy station with High-Speed Rail plans, and our current focus of effort is to resolve those conflicts. She also noted that the cost estimates that were developed as of September were higher than the funding secured for construction, and she is working with HDR to do value engineering work and identify options for cost savings.

Chair LeBarre asked if the cost increases are due to inflation. Ms. Watson replied that many of the causes for cost increases were due to elements of the project that were not included in the 90% plans, added as a result of stakeholder input. Staff continue to work with HDR and MNS and will be bringing in Caltrans to discuss ways in saving cost on 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 Guthier, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported on a field trip to Sacramento and the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system on October 24 and 25, 2022. She noted that the trip included a tour of the SMART operating center and a train ride.

Committee Member Medina Dirksen asked about the cost to get the Clipper card. Executive Director Muck replied that you can get the Clipper card in your phone's wallet or download the SMART application for free, and no physical card is needed, you just need to pay for the ride itself. Committee Alternate Courtney noted that she used her phone's Clipper card recently and found it to be user friendly; she noted that even if your phone loses power, its wallet will still work.

Committee Ex-Officio Alternate Rheinheimer noted that Monterey-Salinas Transit is moving to a contactless fare system that does not need a special application, just a credit card or phone wallet.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that Alissa will be coordinating another trip to SMART focusing on Monday and Friday in late March 2023. She will coordinate on dates with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and SMART to narrow down dates and will send out a doodle poll to committee members. Ms. Watson noted that

the next Coast Rail Coordinating Council Coastal meeting is scheduled for November 18 via zoom and will be adopting the 2023 calendar meetings.

Chair LeBarre noted that lunch with CalSTA Secretary of Rail Chad Edison in Sacramento was very instructive, and they discussed hydrogen as a key focus and mentioned that MST is looking at hydrogen fueling facility. Chair LeBarre mentioned that he was unclear on the formulaic TIRCP allocations out next year. Ms. Watson replied that we are working to better understand the TIRCP opportunities. Executive Director Todd Muck noted that the additional funding does require additional state augmentation.

7. 2023 RPC MEETING SCHEDULE

M/S/C Anderson /Courtney /unanimous

The Committee approved the 2023 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings and provided direction to staff related to the potential to have hybrid meetings starting in March 2023.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the proposed 2023 schedule follows the existing pattern of meetings on the first Monday of the month starting at 3 p.m. Ms. Watson noted the meetings will continue to be held via zoom under the Governor's declared state of emergency for January and February. She noted that after it is expected to be lifted on February 28, 2023, the meetings will be held at the TAMC conference room or other locations to be determined in advance, starting in March 2023. Ms. Watson mentioned that it will be possible to make the in-person meetings accessible for remote participation, following the revised Brown Act rules for remote participation, which require at least a quorum to attend in person. Committee members needing to participate remotely must get prior approval from the Committee. She noted that Committee Members' remote participation is limited to 20% of the meetings, meaning no more than 2 Committee meetings per year.

Chair LeBarre liked the idea of hybrid meeting to enable the public and representatives from partner agencies to continue to join the meeting.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced the next Committee meeting is on January 9, 2023, at 3 pm via Zoom.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.