

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of March 6, 2017

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	FEB 16	MAR 16	APR 16	MAY 16	JUNE 16	AUG 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	FEB 17	MAR 17
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	P(A)	P(A)	C	C	E	-	E	P(A)	P(A)	P
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	A	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)	P(A)	N	N	P(A)	P(A)	E	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P	P	C	C	P(A)	P	P	P	P(A)	E
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	-	P	E	E	P	P	-	P(A)	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	P	P	L	L	P(A)	E	E	-	P	E
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	-	P(A)	L	L	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	E
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	-	-	E	E	P	P	P	P	-	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	D	D	P(A)	P	P	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P			E	P	P	E	P	P
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)	-	-			-	-	P	P	P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	-	P(A)			P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-			-	-	P	E	-	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	-			P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-			-	-	P	-	-	-
STAFF										
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	E			P	P	E	P	E	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	-	P			P	-	-	-	-	-
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P
A. Green, Associate Trans. Planner	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	P
T. Wright Community Outreach Coordinator	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Delgado called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

Vice Chair Delgado noted that the Committee would receive the Salinas Rail Extension project update as the last item on today's agenda.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Petersen

Salinas resident

Julian Espinoza

Cheryl Ku

County of Monterey

James Serrano

City of Salinas

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Rubio/Chavez /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the February 6, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress of the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on February 6, 2017, includes a meeting with the California State Transportation Authority (CalSTA), the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and adoption of the Intermodal Transportation Center Memorandum of Understanding by the Salinas City Council.

Ms. Watson reported that CalSTA and Caltrans strongly support increased passenger rail service to Salinas, and encourage the Committee to consider a short-term Caltrain weekday service and Capitol Corridor weekend service to Salinas. Ms. Watson reported that CalSTA is still negotiating with Union Pacific to allow for access payments, and noted that VTA's Measure B includes funding to support increased Caltrain service to Gilroy. She noted that Caltrans would be presenting the draft Rail Plan at the May 1 Committee meeting.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, presented an update on the status of property acquisition at the Salinas train station. Mr. Zeller reported that TAMC has acquired two out of the nine properties. He provided an overview of typical negotiations with property owners, as requested at the February TAMC Board meeting. Mr. Zeller reported that staff is anticipating having one property acquisition agreement at the March TAMC Board meeting, and resolutions of necessity hearings for the remaining six properties. He noted that good faith negotiations would continue after the resolutions of necessity hearing.

Committee Member Alejo asked about the timeline of revised appraisals, and asked about the acquisition process if the resolutions of necessity are adopted. Mr. Zeller said revised offer letters were issued January 25. Mr. Zeller said that should the resolutions of necessity be adopted, TAMC legal counsel would file in court to get the order of possession, and, if it goes that far, a jury would

ultimately determine the just compensation for the subject properties. However, the notice alone has spurred a few owners to submit counter-offers.

5. SALINAS TO MONTEREY PENINSULA MOBILITY

Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner, reported that the Mobility between the Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula is a regional transportation priority. She and Committee Alternate Lisa Rheinheimer presented an update on projects currently under development for the Salinas to Monterey corridor.

Ms. Murillo noted that in June 2015, the Transportation Agency adopted the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan. The Plan identifies improvements for the corridor between Marina and Salinas that will increase roadway capacity by prioritizing high quality transit, bicycling and walking as a viable alternatives to driving. Ms. Murillo reported that the Davis Road bridge replacement and widening project and the Imjin safety and traffic flow improvement project are two major improvements identified in the Plan that are currently underway. Mr. Zeller noted that MST, the cities of Marina and Salinas, and the County of Monterey are adopting an updated Memorandum of Agreement.

Committee Alternate Lisa Rheinheimer reported that MST is currently leading a feasibility study to analyze bus operations along the shoulders of Highway 1 and/or along the Monterey Branch Line right of way. She reported that San Diego, Minnesota, and Toronto have all operated buses on the shoulders of highway during peak-hour congestion. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that MST is collaborating with Santa Cruz Metro, AMBAG, TAMC, Caltrans, CHP and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to analyze the feasibility and do a cost benefit analysis of operating buses on the shoulder and/or in the rail right of way. A draft study is expected in November 2017 and a final study in February 2018.

Committee Member LeBarre asked if the study is considering the time saving benefits for families. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that this could be discussed as an added benefit as part of the study's analysis.

Vice Chair Delgado asked about the San Diego bus on shoulder pilot and the safety record of bus on shoulder. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that the pilot project was well received, but a high-occupancy lane was implemented so bus on shoulder was no longer necessary. Committee Alternate Heather Adamson reported that Marin County is also considering bus on shoulder, and noted that Minnesota has been successfully operating bus on shoulder for decades. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that Minnesota's program has a very good safety record due to its specific rules about the quality of shoulders, time of day and speed of buses operating on the shoulder.

Committee Member Bodem asked about the specific segments for the study. Ms. Rheinheimer said the study is looking at the segment between Marina and Monterey.

Committee Member Alejo expressed his support for the study.

6. COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update of the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner, reported that the progress since the last update to the Committee about the coast rail project on February 6, 2017, includes a Coast Rail Coordinating Council Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Murillo reported that the Council would be pursuing legislation for intercity rail corridor extensions. She noted that the Federal environmental review of the Salinas to San Jose corridor is currently in administrative draft form, and the document is institutionally neutral on the service on the coast corridor based on feedback from stakeholders. She also reported that Committee members are invited to a tour of the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) project, planned for June or August. Ms. Watson also noted the annual passenger rail summit was planned for April 18-19 in Sacramento and Committee members should let her know if they are interested in attending.

Committee Member LeBarre asked about what is meant by the Council's "corridor strengthening" term. It was noted that this means that the Council still needs to identify a service provider.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

8. **ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.