

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Final Minutes of August 7, 2023*

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901 - Transportation Agency Conference Room  
 Alternate location: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933 - Supervisor Askew's Office and  
 11140 Speegle Street, Castroville CA, 95012 Supervisor Church's Office

	SEP 22	OCT 22	NOV 22	DEC 22	JAN 23	FEB 23	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN	JUL	AUG
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	A	C	P(A)	N	P(A)	P	C	P	P	C	N	P
G. Church, Dist. 2 ( <del>M. Vierra</del> , L. Gray)	P(A)	A	A	O	A	P	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 ( <del>Y. Anderson</del> , E. Mora)	P(A)	N	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	N	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N		P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	P(A)	C	P(A)	M	E	A	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	M	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	E	A	P	E	P	P	E	E	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	L	P	E	P	P	L	A	A	L	E	A
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	P	L	A	T	P	A	L	P	A	L	T	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	P	E	P	I	P	P	E	E	P	E	I	A
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder, K. Cruz)	P(A)	D	P(A)	N	A	A	D	A	A	D	N	A
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P		P	G	P	P		P	P		G	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Cabera, D. Wilcox)	A		A		P	P		P	P			P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)	P		P		P	P		E	P			E
M. Twomey, AMBAG ( <del>H. Adamson</del> , P. Hierling)	P(A)		P(A)		A	P(A)		P(A)	P(A) (VC)			P(A) (VC)
J. Xiao, Caltrans District 5	P		P		P	P		A	P (VC)			A
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ <del>M. Overmeyer</del> )	P(A)		P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	P (VC)			P(A) (VC)
<b>STAFF</b>												
T. Muck, Executive Director	P		P		P	P		E	P			E
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P		P		P	P		P	P			P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P		P		E	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)

M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P		P		P	P		P	P			P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		P		P	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P		P		A	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)
A. Guther, Assis. Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	E			P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A		P		A	P		E	A			A
J. Strause, Transportation Planner	A		A		A	A		A	A			P
A. Hernandez Assis. Transp. Planner						P		A	A			A

P = Present      A = Absent      P(A) = Alternate Present      E = Excused      (VC) = Video Conference

**1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dave Potter	City of Carmel, from Boston	Jasmine Mejia-Cortez	Monterey County
Roland Lebrun	Public	Shannon Simonds	Caltrans
Linda Gonzalez	Monterey Couty	Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC
Tarah Gatten	Caltrans		

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Alejo/Oglesby /unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the May 1, 2023, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Received update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

**3.3** Received update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

**3.4** Received media clippings attached online.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. POTENTIAL FIELD TRIPS/TOURS**

The Committee provided direction to staff regarding potential field trips, such as a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit system and/or a visit to the Caltrain electric train and the Gilroy Caltrain station.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that staff attempted to arrange a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system, but only three elected officials confirmed their availability for the date, so the tour was deferred until a larger group is available, as the tour entails a significant level effort for staff. Ms. Guther noted that the trip would require a multi-day commitment to accommodate the travel between Salinas and Larkspur or San Rafael (a 3 to 4 hour drive each way) as well a ride north on the SMART train, a visit to the operations center, and a ride back south on the SMART train. Staff would arrange a hotel near the southernmost train station.

Ms. Guther mentioned that another tour was suggested to visit the Gilroy train station and the Caltrain electric trains at the Diridon station in San Jose and meet with elected officials on the Caltrain Joint Powers Board. She noted that this trip would require an all-day commitment to accommodate travel and meetings with elected officials in Gilroy and in San Jose.

Committee Member Oglesby asked about the timeline for round-the-bay service. Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that one of the goals for the tour was interagency relationships with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to foster coordination and support for near-term projects such as the Pajaro train station, that will lead to the future round-the-bay service in the full buildout scenario of the Network Integration Study adopted by the Board in 2021.

Committee Member Alejo mentioned that he is interested in the Sonoma visit if it can happen in October 2023; if not, he would not be available again until after April 2024.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Committee's priority is to develop a strong relationship with SCCRTC elected officials and directed staff to coordinate a sit down in person meeting to discuss mutual interests between TAMC and SCCRTC. This meeting could be held in the Pajaro/Watsonville area as this is the location that is a key connector for the rail lines linking Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. He noted one discussion topic at that meeting might be a joint field trip to Sonoma.

Committee Member Chavez noted that focus on Thursday or Friday are likely best in October/November.

The Committee did not express interest in a group visit to the Gilroy Caltrain station nor to see the electric trainsets.

## **5. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that in April 2023, the California State Transportation Agency approved a \$2.3 million grant to cover the cost of California Environmental Quality Act and National Environment Policy Act documentation. She noted that this documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for the design update and right of way work. Ms. Guther noted that the total estimated cost of pre-construction work for the Pajaro multimodal Station Project, which includes environmental review, design, and right of way, is \$19.5 million. She mentioned that the schedule for allocation of funds, a request to proposals, and a contract to begin this work is as follows:

- October 2023: California Transportation Commission approval of funding allocation
- October 2023 TAMC Board: approve Request for Proposals, to be circulated November-December 2023
- February 2024 TAMC Board: approve contract for work to begin March 2024

Committee Member Smith asked about whether flooding would be evaluated in the environmental documents. Committee member Alejo noted that the station was flooded in January. Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that the floodplain is included in the environmental review.

Ms. Guther added that she has been in contact with Monterey County staff about climate resiliency efforts and goals in the Pajaro area.

**6. AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION RAIL CONFERENCE SUMMARY**

The Committee received a report on the 2023 America Public Transit Association Rail Conference.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that she and Alissa attended the (APTA) Rail Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with TAMC Board Chair LeBarre. Ms. Watson noted that the summary of sessions was attached to the agenda report. Chair LeBarre mentioned one session that stood out was the one on hydrogen technology, noting that the state is looking to do a big rolling stock acquisition in the year 2030.

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that the next committee meeting will be on September 11, 2023.

**8. ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.