

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of August 1, 2016

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	JUNE 15	AUG 15	SEP 15	NOV 15	JAN 16	FEB 16	MAR 16	APR 16	MAY 16	JUNE 16	AUG 16
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P	C	P	P	P	P(A)	P(A)	C	C	E	-
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton , C. Link)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	N	P(A)	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee , J. Mohammadi)	P	C	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	C	C	P(A)	P
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	-	E	-	P	P	-	P	E	E	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	P	L	-	P	E	P	P	L	L	P(A)	E
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair (R. Russell, J. Serrano)	P	L	P	P(A)	P	-	P(A)	L	L	P(A)	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	-	E	P	P	E	-	-	E	E	P	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (I. Oglesby)	E	D	P	P	P	P	P	D	D	P(A)	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	E		P	P	P	P	P			E	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	P(A)		-	-	P(A)	-	P(A)			P(A)	-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-		-	-	E	-	-			-	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, L. Rheinheimer)	-		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	-			P(A)	-
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-		-	-	-	-	-			-	-
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	E		P	P	P	P	E			P	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
A. Green, Transp. Planner	-		-	-	-	-	-			-	-
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	E		P	E	P	P	P			P	P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	-		-	P	-	-	P			P	-
V. Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner	P		P	P	P	P	P			P	P

E – Excused **VC – Video Conference**
P(A) – Alternate **TC – Teleconference**

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Andy Cook	Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation	Mike LeBarre	King City councilmember
Erich Friedrich	AMBAG	Eric Petersen	Salinas resident
Grant Leonard	TAMC staff	McGregor Eddy	Salinas Californian columnist

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/Craig

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 6, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.
Rubio abstained

3.2 Recommended that the Board approve a change to the Agency bylaws to allow for a second Rail Policy Committee representative from South Monterey County

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2018 CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN

The Committee received a presentation on the 2018 California State Rail Plan.

Andy Cook, Chief, Rail Planning Branch, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation, presented on the draft 2018 California State Rail Plan. He noted that Caltrans is developing the 2018 California State Rail Plan over the next year, with input from all the stakeholder rail agencies, including TAMC. He noted that Caltrans prepares the Rail Plan on a 4-year schedule based on state and federal guidelines and requirements. The 2018 Rail Plan establishes a vision for long-term State passenger rail investments. The Plan is focused on developing a multimodal and integrated rail network with synchronized train schedules, ticketing and marketing. The Plan includes separate sections for passenger and freight rail, including a near-term four year program of projects, a 10-year interim program, and a long-term “vision” with a 2040 horizon year.

Mike LeBarre, City of King City Councilmember, asked what the City of King and Soledad can do to be more involved in the development of the 2018 Rail Plan. Mr. Cook said that cities can be active participants through TAMC.

Committee Member Delgado asked about funding for regional through service between Monterey and Santa Cruz. Chair Potter commented that “wharf to wharf” service is a regional rail connection that TAMC has discussed for years. Mr. Cook said that the 2018 Rail Plan lays out a framework to guide investments of future funding, and noted that the Plan is not financially constrained. Committee Alternate Markey asked if the 2018 Rail Plan includes an examination of the costs to lay new tracks. Mr. Cook said that the Plan includes a capital investment analysis, and includes planning level cost estimates and will describe the funding availability.

Chair Potter noted that he appreciates the inclusion of rail connectivity for service in the Central Coast in the 2018 Rail Plan, and pointed out the lack of passenger rail connectivity for the Central Coast. Chair Potter also expressed the need for State funding for Central Coast rail service, and the need for the State to take a lead role in negotiations with Union Pacific. Mr. Cook noted that the State will be a more active player in rail service planning, and noted that the State sees rail service to the Central Coast as important.

5. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that as reported at the June Committee meeting, the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) is in the midst of a paradigm shift governing the planned expansion from seven to eleven round trips between Oakland and San Jose. She noted that the plan to add new train trips has been deferred, pending funding for right of way improvements to increase tracks capacity between Oakland and San Jose and provision of dedicated passenger rail tracks on the Coast line. Ms. Watson noted that staff continue to coordinate with CCJPA and Caltrans to consider options for service expansion. Ms. Watson reported that design work continues for the improvements at the Salinas station.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported on the progress in property acquisition at the station. Chair Potter asked if hazmat studies have been conducted at the Salinas station. Ms. Watson said that hazmat studies had been conducted at the station, and that cleanup would be built into property acquisition agreements. Chair Potter noted that the State needs to view Capitol Corridor service to Salinas as a statewide issue.

6. **COAST DAYLIGHT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the status of the planned Coast Daylight train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that the Coast Daylight project is a joint Caltrans/Amtrak effort headed up by the Coast Rail Coordination Council (CRCC), to extend an existing Pacific Surfliner train that currently runs between San Diego and San Luis Obispo up to San Jose. She noted that the CRCC would be holding a visioning session in Monterey on August 11.

Mike LeBarre, King City councilmember, said that rail service is needed in the South County cities, and noted that Fort Hunter Liggett and Pinnacles National Park service also needs to be considered. Chair Potter noted that transportation options in the region are limited, and rail service to the region is a crucial element for regional mobility options.

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

Ms. Watson announced that the next Committee meeting would be on October 3rd.

Mike LeBarre, King City councilmember, thanked the Committee for recommending that the Board approve adding a second South County representative to the Committee.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.