



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways - Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

AGENDA

TAMC RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Monday
September 10, 2018

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

3:00 PM

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum for the voting TAMC Rail Policy Committee members consists of a minimum of 6 of the following voting members: Adams, Alejo, Bodem, Chavez, Craig, Delgado, LeBarre, Parker, Phillips, Rubio, and Smith.

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your two alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA.

Any member of the public may address the Rail Policy Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Rail Policy Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the CONSENT AGENDA for discussion and action.

3.1. APPROVE the draft minutes of the August 6, 2018 Rail Policy Committee.

- Murillo

The draft minutes of the August 6, 2018 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on August 6, 2018 include a groundbreaking, rail tour, and several project meetings.

5. RECEIVE update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

- Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on August 6, 2018 includes a successful application for federal funding for Positive Train Control on the coast corridor.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.

7. ADJOURN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:

Monday, October 1, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

Light refreshments will be provided

**If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator**

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902
Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
TEL: 831-775-0903
FAX: 831-775-0897**

The Committee Agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1. RECEIVE** reports attached online.
- C 2. RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 10, 2018
Subject: **Minutes of August 6 RPC**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft minutes of the August 6, 2018 Rail Policy Committee.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the August 6, 2018 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Rail Policy Committee minutes August 6, 2018

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Draft Minutes of August 6, 2018
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	AUG 17	SEPT 17	OCT 17	NOV 17	DEC 17	JAN 18	FEB 18	MAR 18	APR 18	MAY 18	JUN 18	AUG 18
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	N	P	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	A	E	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)	P(A)	N	E		P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	P	P	E	P	E	-	P	E	P(A)	E	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	E	P	L	E	E	P	P	L	P	P	L	-
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	P	P	L	E	T	P	P	L	P	P	L	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	E	E	P	I	P	E	E	E	P(A)	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	D	P	N	-	P	D	P	P	D	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P		P	G	-	P		-	-		-
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)	P	P		P		P	P		P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	E	-		-		-	-		-	-		-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		-		-	-		-	E		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	E		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-		-		-	-		-	-		-
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P		P		P	E		P	P		P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P		P		E	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
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner	P	E		P		-	P		P	P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	-		-		-	-		-	-		P

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Hierling	AMBAG	Ivan Garcia	Resident
Cheryl Ku	Monterey County	Paul Powers	Resident
Brad Tarp	Resident	Jennifer Russell	MNS Engineers
Chris Flescher	Resident		

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Rubio/ Stratton/ unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 7, 2018 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **MST BUS ON SHOULDER/MONTEREY BRANCH LINE STUDY**

The Committee received a presentation on the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and the Monterey Branch Line.

Lisa Rheinheimer, MST Director of Planning & Marketing, presented an update on the MST Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and in the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the study analyzed traffic data to confirm congestion times and analyzed operations on different segments of Highway 1 shoulders, the Monterey Branch Line and along city streets. Currently, there is no preferred alternative. However, the Study's analysis showed that bus operations in the Monterey-Branch Line would yield the greatest travel times savings and has an acceptable cost-benefit ratio. Operating the bus on the shoulders of Highway 1 turned out to be very expensive.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the segment between Marina and the Highway 1 and Fremont Blvd. intersection in Seaside along the Monterey Branch Line was one of the top performing segments in the Study's analysis. Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the next steps for the Study are to initiate environmental review and preliminary design.

Committee alternate Askew asked about conflicts between the bike path and the Monterey Branch Line. Ms. Rheinheimer said this would be analyzed during the environmental review phase and noted that the intent would be to maintain safe access for the bike path.

Committee alternate Askew asked if the bus service might continue when light rail begins. Ms. Rheinheimer said bus service and light rail service are complementary.

Committee alternate Anderson asked about TAMC's role in this project. Executive Director Hale said that this project is a precursor for light rail service.

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, asked about the speed of buses if they are operated in the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. Ms. Rheinheimer said this is something that will be analyzed during the design phase, but that bus speeds would likely be faster than the median speed of traffic on the parallel roads or highway during commute hours.

Executive Director Hale noted that improving the bike path and ensuring safe connections is something TAMC staff is working on. She also noted that TAMC is interested in studying improvements to the Highway 1/ Fremont Blvd./ California Ave./ Monterey Rd. intersection.

Brad Tarp, resident, asked about the businesses on the Monterey Branch Line. Committee member Rubio commented that the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way is generally 100 feet across, and that TAMC's leases to businesses on the Branch Line are temporary.

5. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on May 7, 2018 include execution of a contract for demolition of structures in preparation for construction of the Lincoln Avenue extension, execution of a contract for the acquisition of properties in preparation for the Salinas train layover facility, and meetings regarding operations and outreach. Ms. Watson reported that staff worked with Caltrain to develop a draft schedule for train operations. The schedule will be used by Union Pacific for the rail line capacity analysis study.

Committee member Delgado asked if there have been increases in the cost of construction for the project. Ms. Watson said that is something TAMC will not know until construction bids are opened. She noted that the latest engineer's estimates are only a few weeks old. Ms. Watson noted that demolition bids came in below the engineer's estimate.

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported that staff has been coordinating the community outreach for the upcoming Lincoln Avenue extension groundbreaking. Jennifer Russell, MNS Engineers, reported that the feedback the outreach team has gotten on the project so far has been very positive.

Brad Tarp, property owner, asked about the schedule for Package 2 acquisitions. Ms. Watson said the schedule is dependent on the plat maps and legal descriptions, which must be done prior to appraisals. Executive Director Hale said that property acquisitions are negotiations and details are not discussed in open meetings.

Committee member LeBarre asked about the UPRR capacity study limits. Ms. Watson said that the capacity study would be from Gilroy to Salinas. Committee member LeBarre asked who the lead would be for the King City station capacity analysis. Ms. Watson said Amtrak would likely be the lead.

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, suggested that staff and the design team look at station electrification for on-platform charging of trains.

6. COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

M/S/C Delgado/LeBarre/unanimous

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and recommended that the Board approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Coast Rail Coordinating Council.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the CRCC Policy Committee met on July 16, 2018 and approved a revised Memorandum of Understanding. The revised MOU has minor editorial changes and removes references to the staff “Technical Committee”.

Committee member LeBarre noted that the group is a good example of partnerships.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, announced that this is Virginia Murillo’s last Committee meeting. Ms. Murillo announced that she is leaving TAMC and starting graduate school in the fall.

George Dondero, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, announced via email to the Committee that Progressive Rail has filed with the Surface Transportation Board to begin operations in Santa Cruz County. He also announced that the lawsuit filed against the Regional Transportation Commission by Greenway is not affecting freight operations on the Santa Cruz Branch Line. Mr. Dondero announced that the presentation from the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit at the Regional Transportation Commission is available online.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 10, 2018
Subject: Salinas Rail Extension project update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on August 6, 2018 include a groundbreaking, rail tour, and several project meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Rail Extension to Monterey County project, Phase 1, Salinas Kick-Start project (the Salinas station and improvements in Santa Clara County), is estimated at \$81 million. The Kick-Start project is proceeding with final design and right-of-way acquisition under the adopted state environmental clearance.

DISCUSSION:

Salinas Station: Package 1: Lincoln Avenue, Access/ Circulation/ Parking

Package 1 of the Salinas Station project is an extension of Lincoln Avenue to provide safe, signalized access to the train station and improved circulation, parking, and landscaping at the station. This package is at 100% design, environmentally cleared, and nearing readiness for construction.

The structure demolition team completed some hazardous materials abatement to enable the Salinas Fire Department to do drills and exercises in the cleaned structures. However, demolition work is on hold pending the disconnect of gas and electric to those structures. The contractor is also working with the construction management team to complete the required stormwater paperwork.

On August 16, staff met with City of Salinas staff to discuss the project schedule and utility relocation issues. The City is still trying to get an agreement with PG&E to relocate their gas and electric lines to

Lincoln Avenue. TAMC's 100% plans call for minor relocations within the parking lot area.

In the meantime, TAMC sent Notice to Owner letters to all utilities, a requirement for the right-of-way certification and the allocation of \$11.2 million in construction funding. Staff submitted the paperwork for the October 17-18 meeting of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for this funding, pending approval of the Caltrans Encroachment permit for the work within the State Route 183 right-of-way.

Service Planning

On August 21, staff attended the Northern California Megaregional Rail Group meeting, presented a project update, and discussed next steps on travel demand modeling and analysis. These analyses could help with the service negotiations that are needed to make progress on Package 2 (layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy station track improvements).

On August 9, staff met with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and Caltrans staff to discuss next steps on the \$500,000 in state cap and trade funding for network integration. A funding allocation request is also on the October CTC agenda. This funding is for planning work to lay the foundation of a future grant application for the next phases of the project in Pajaro/ Watsonville and Castroville.

State Rail Plan

Caltrans is expecting to publish the final Statewide Rail Plan "any day now". It will be available on the Caltrans website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/californiarail/>. According to a leaked final draft, the final plan continues to show rail service to Salinas in the near-term (2022) scenario and an ambitious central coast rail network in the full build-out (2040) scenario. The plan establishes the State's long-term interest in continuing to partner with the Central Coast to develop a rail network that is integrated with long distance state services at both ends and underpins everything CalSTA and Caltrans are talking about in state rail funding discussions and in the Megaregional meetings.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 10, 2018
Subject: **Coast Corridor Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on August 6, 2018 includes a successful application for federal funding for Positive Train Control on the coast corridor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail service project construction and operation costs are still under evaluation.

Caltrans led a successful federal grant application for funding to implement Positive Train Control on the coast corridor, assuming a match of TAMC funding secured via the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program of \$1.615 million and State Transportation Improvement Program of \$636,340. Staff will bring an item to the Board on September 26, 2018 to ratify this commitment.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) technical staff held a phone call on August 16 to discuss legislative issues, grant applications, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which the TAMC Board approved on August 22, 2018. The next call is scheduled for September 28.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 19 in Monterey.

On August 20, 2018, TAMC got the news that the Federal Department of Transportation (US DOT) approved an \$11.34 million grant for Caltrans, under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program. This project will install Positive Train Control, a rail safety

technology to prevent train crashes, on the 187-mile corridor from Oakland to San Luis Obispo. This corridor is the only rail corridor in the state of California that does not yet have the technology in place – with this investment, the whole state rail network will be covered. Installing the crash prevention technology will enable an increase in passenger trains on the corridor. The \$11.34 million in federal railroad safety funds is leveraged by a \$6.25 million state/local commitment of funding for the corridor. Staff will bring an item to the September Board to approve TAMC's share of this local funding commitment. Caltrans is the lead on this project, coordinating with Union Pacific Railroad and local agencies. The project schedule shows planning in 2019, design in 2020, and installation in 2021.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 10, 2018
Subject: Reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [July 2018 Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority Monthly Report](#)



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 10, 2018
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [August 4, 2018 article in the Monterey Herald, "Pulling into the station: Salinas rail extension project set for groundbreaking ceremony" \(PDF here\)](#)
- [August 7, 2018 letter to the editor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, "We need rail stops at Pajaro and Castroville now"](#)
- [August 9, 2018 report on KAZU 90.3, "Commuter train service ahead for Salinas"](#)
- [August 9, 2018 item in the Weekly Buzz column: Good week/ Bad week](#)
- [August 9, 2018 report on KION, "Monterey County Rail Extension project underway"](#)
- [August 10, 2018 article in the Carmel Pine Cone, "\\$81 million rail project breaks ground: Commuter service planned from Salinas to points north" \(PDF of pages 10 & 18\)](#)
- [August 12, 2018 article in the Salinas Californian, "Ground broken on rail extension project: Work underway to connect Salinas to Bay Area" \(PDF here\)](#)