

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of August 1, 2022

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

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

A. Guther Assis. Transp. Planner			P		P	P	P		P	E		P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A	A	A		A	A	A		A	A		P
J. Strause Transportation Planner	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-		P

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 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tarah Brady	Caltrans	Alex Lopez	Caltrans
Shannon Simonds	Caltrans	Paul Guirguis	Caltrans
Andy Myrick	City of Salinas	Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC
Brad Tarp	Public	Paul Powers	Public
Dave White	Public	Barry Scott	Public
Elizabeth Madrigal	Public	Michael Gomez	Public

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Scott, Coastal Rail Santa Cruz, mentioned that Measure D failed by 73% and Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is moving forward with rail. In conclusion, Mr. Scott noted that he hoped for more coordination between RTC and TAMC.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter / Anderson /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 6, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SURF! BUSWAY AND BRT PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.

Doug Bipse, Principal Engineer, reported that MST and TAMC were successful in securing a \$25 million grant funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). He introduced Michelle Overmeyer, Director of Planning and Innovation, Monterey-Salinas Transit. Ms. Overmeyer presented an update on the SURF! Project. She noted that the six-mile, bus-only route would run parallel to Highway 1, from Marina to Sand City and Seaside, in the TAMC-owned Monterey Branch Line corridor. Ms. Overmeyer reported that the current schedule includes outreach in August and estimates that the design process will be completed in the spring of 2024 with construction beginning by the end of 2024.

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 on the Salinas parking area (Package 1) land transfer to the City of Salinas. He noted that staff will submit a request for approval of the land transfer to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for consideration at their October meeting, once the transfer is approved by the City Salinas Council on August 9 and by the TAMC Board on August 24.

Mr. Zeller reported that negotiations for the acquisition of five parcels needed for the Salinas layover facility (Package 2) are ongoing. He noted that TAMC staff continues to oversee the right-of-way special counsel from Burke, Williams, & Sorensen to further negotiations and finalize the remaining acquisitions in Salinas. Mr. Zeller reported that TAMC staff and the team of Bender Rosenthal, and Nossaman are poised to negotiate for access rights with Union Pacific pending Union Pacific review of the design documents for the track extensions in Gilroy (Package 3).

Brad Tarp, member of public, asked for a timeline of when will they be compensated for their property. Mr. Zeller replied that he would contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board and would follow up with Mr. Tarp.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the design team continues to hold project design meetings and anticipates having 100% plans available for stakeholder review in September.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro station Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) application was unsuccessful. She noted that TAMC staff is working to set up a debrief with the State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to understand how this project can improve scoring in future grant opportunities.

The Committee discussed the possibility of inviting a representative of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to the Committee or setting up quarterly meetings between RTC & TAMC Board members. Todd Muck, Executive Director, noted he would raise the question with RTC Executive Director Guy Preston.

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 Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) working group met on July 15. She noted that TAMC staff is working on setting up a field trip for the CRCC Policy Committee to visit the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) corridor in October.

Committee Member Potter reported that a previous tour by CRCC when SMART was just opening was eye opening and productive, and that it is good timing to go back to learn about their planned expansions.

Mr. Potter noted that a meeting on July 20 with Representatives Panetta and Lofgren was a foundational and groundwork-setting meeting for future federal funds requests.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director of Planning Christina Watson announced the next meeting on September 12, 2022 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.