



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

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 1, 2021

****3:00 PM****

REMOTE CONFERENCING ONLY

There will be NO physical location of the meeting.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

Join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/654778900?pwd=L2daellZTW5NSDZMQ2RSY1hJVlpGZz09>

OR

By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 654 778 900

Password: 506977

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.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your 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 Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by

5:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting.

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 minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of October 4, 2021.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the October 4, 2021 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. APPROVE 2022 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

- Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2022 follows the existing pattern of meetings on the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. except July and December, when all committee meetings are cancelled due to holidays; and January and September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the New Years or Labor Day holiday.

3.3. RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 20th Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

- Wright

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 3, 2021. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 26, 2022 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2022 Legislative Program.

- Watson

The purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to legislative or budgetary proposals. The program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the Agency.

5. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in September include work related to closing out permits for the construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

6. **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 to this Committee in October includes a meeting of the Policy Committee.

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

8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, January 10, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Important Meeting Information

Remote Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhanced State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allowed local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. That order expired on September 30, 2021. Governor Newsom has now signed AB 361, and the TAMC Board of Directors approved a resolution to enact AB 361 on September 22, 2021. This legislation permits teleconferencing for Brown Act meetings during a state of emergency. Thus, TAMC meetings will convene remotely, until further

notice. For remote meetings, the public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during remote meetings. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. 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 review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
www.tamcmonterey.org
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee 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.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: 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 staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, 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.** No correspondence this agenda.
- C 2.** **RECEIVE** reports attached online.
- C 3.** **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **Draft October RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of October 4, 2021.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the October 4, 2021 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft October RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT Minutes of October 4, 2021
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21	FEB 21	MAR 21	APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	-	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	-	P(A)	E	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		E	P(A)	P
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave , C. Courtney)	P(A)	E	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	-	-	-	P	L	-	-	P(A)	E	P	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	E	T	E	P	-
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	I	P	-	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	-	-	P	P		P	P	P	G	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	-	P	-	P		-	P	P		P	-	-
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	P	P	-	E		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)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		P		-	-	-		-	P	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		E	P	-
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	E		P	P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	P	P	P		P	-	P		-	-	-
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	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						P	-	-		-	-	-

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Josh Pulverman	Caltrans	Tarah Brady	Caltrans
Andy Myrick	City of Salinas	Shannon Simonds	Caltrans
Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas	Sheena Patel	HDR
David Schmalz	Monterey County Weekly		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Craig/Askew /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the September 6, 2021, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CALTRANS 2022 STATE RAIL PLAN

The Committee received a presentation from Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation staff and provided feedback to guide the development the 2022 State Rail Plan.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Josh Pulverman, Caltrans, who reported that Caltrans is initiating the next update to the State Rail Plan, which it will complete by June 2022, to meet requirements for prioritizing state and federal investment in passenger and freight rail. He noted that they condensed the 9 regions from the 2018 plan to 7 regions for the 2020 plan. He stated the scheduled public comment period is from November 2021 to January 2022. Mr. Pulverman noted that the final draft plan will be released by March 2022 and the final plan would be published in June 2022.

Chair LeBarre asked if the planning kits would be available to other agencies and cities? Mr. Pulverman replied that the cities might need to go through TAMC for kits. Shannon Simonds, Caltrans, noted that the statewide infrastructure, track charts, and signal locations applicable to rail service would be available to rail operators on the statewide rail network.

Chair LeBarre noted that Monterey-Salinas Transit is planning a route analysis and would benefit from knowing the rail schedule. Ms. Simonds replied that the Rail Plan tool doesn't identify every transfer throughout the system, it is focused on hub stations. She suggested MST could reach out to a regional rail planner or Caltrans for more information.

5. **SALINAS RAIL DEPLOYMENT PLAYBOOK**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension Deployment Playbook.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Shannon Simmonds with Caltrans, who reported that in July 2021, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit kicked off Central Coast near-term service deployment work. This project will get the Salinas Rail Extension project into revenue service in the near-term. Ms. Simmonds noted that the team is currently focused on identifying operating funding and drafting administrative agreements.

6. **SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the team continues to work toward the completion of Package 1 construction. Ms. Williamson noted that staff plans to bring the Notice of Completion to the TAMC Board in December.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that staff continues to coordinate with the City of Salinas on the Package 1 land transfer. She noted that the TAMC Board approved the agreement in September, and it will go next to the Salinas City Council and then California Transportation Commission (CTC) for approval.

Committee Member Craig asked when it will be going to the City of Salinas for approval. Andy Myrick, City of Salinas, replied that he is working to get it on the October 26 or November 9 City Council agenda.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on the five parcels for the Salinas layover facility. Mr. Zeller noted that a Request for Proposals for the Monterey County Rail Extension Union Pacific Railroad Property Acquisition is out, and October 28, 2021, is the deadline for proposals.

Ms. Watson noted that staff is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TAMC and Caltrain outlining the process towards an operating agreement, and an MOU among TAMC, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City of Gilroy for improvements near the Gilroy train station. Ms. Watson noted that staff is also working on a Fund Transfer Agreement between TAMC and Caltrans, to transfer \$1,615,000 of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding to help fund the Positive Train Control project between Gilroy and San Luis Obispo.

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

Committee Member Askew asked whether the Committee must make AB 361 findings for continued remote meetings. Executive Director Todd Muck stated that action was taken at the September TAMC Board on behalf of all its committees.

Committee Member Medina Dirksen noted that the Handcar tours ended last week.

Ms. Medina Dirksen suggested a resolution of appreciation. Chair LeBarre replied to send idea to Executive Director Todd Muck and TAMC Board Chair Ed Smith.

Christina Watson invited the committee to the Santa Cruz demonstration streetcar on October 15. Committee Alternate Stratton asked if elected officials are allowed to accept a free trip on this streetcar demo. Ms. Watson said she would check with TAMC Counsel and notify Committee members via email.

Chair LeBarre announced that King City gave a tour last Thursday that included a virtual update of the platform project.

Christina Watson announced the next Committee meeting is on November 1, 2021, at 3 pm.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **2022 Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE 2022 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2022 follows the existing pattern of meetings on the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. except July and December, when all committee meetings are cancelled due to holidays; and January and September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the New Years or Labor Day holiday.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Please mark your calendars for the 2022 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 10*
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6
- August 1
- September 12*
- October 3
- November 7

Per tradition, the RPC does not meet in July due to summer holidays nor in December due to winter holidays. The January meeting will be on January 10, to avoid conflicts with extended winter holiday schedules, and the September meeting will be on September 12, since the first Monday is Labor Day. Meeting time will remain the same: 3:00 p.m.

Depending on state law and pandemic status, the meetings may be held via remote conferencing, at the TAMC conference room at 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, or other location to be determined in advance of each meeting (the agenda will specify).

On occasion, after consultation with staff, the Chair may cancel individual RPC meetings, based on the status of rail items. In those situations, staff will notify the Committee and interested persons at least a week in advance of such cancellation.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 20th Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

SUMMARY:

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 3, 2021. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 26, 2022 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County would like to show its appreciation to the local community for its outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County. The program has award categories for individuals, businesses/groups, programs or projects. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of smart commute options as alternatives to driving alone through the Go831 Smart Commute Program.

Committee members are encouraged to distribute nomination forms and nominate projects, groups or individuals to be recognized for their contributions to transportation in Monterey County.

The nomination form is attached to this staff report and is also available on the Transportation Agency website (tamcmonterey.org). The form can be submitted online, mailed to Transportation Agency offices or emailed to Theresa Wright (at theresa@tamcmonterey.org). The deadline for nominations is December 3, 2021. The Transportation Agency Executive Committee will select the awards recipients at its January meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Transportation Excellence Award Nomination Form



Transportation Excellence Awards

Awards Program Nomination form (Please fill out form completely)

1. Name of Nominee

Give name and address of individual (provide title), firm, group, or organization.

Nominee: _____

Category: (circle one) **Individual** **Business/Group** **Program** **Project**

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

If Nominee is a firm, group or organization, provide contact name: _____

Title: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

2. Description:

Describe the individual, business, group, program or project that is being nominated. Include any specific information that may apply, such as the number of people who worked on the project, number of hours spent on the project, number of people served or affected, cost to those served, and annual cost of operation. Indicate whether the nominee is a volunteer or paid. Enclose any photographs or other materials that will contribute additional information to the nomination. Use extra pages as needed.

3. Date or duration of program:

When did this program take place? When was it completed? If ongoing, when did it start?

4. Significance/Result:

State how this person, group or project has contributed to improving transportation in Monterey County in current calendar year. Describe the impact on those served and value created by this activity, as well as any savings provided to users, taxpayers or providers by the nominee. Use extra pages as needed.

5. Person Submitting Nomination:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Please return by **noon, December 3, 2021** via fax: 831-775-0897; email: Theresa@tamcmonterey.org; or mail to: Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Attn: Theresa Wright 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA, 93901. For additional information, please call 831-775-4403.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **2022 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2022 Legislative Program.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to legislative or budgetary proposals. The program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the Agency.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The recommended action has no direct financial impact.

DISCUSSION:

The draft 2022 legislative program continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2022 legislative session. **Attachment 1** is the draft legislative program.

Items of particular interest to this Committee include:

State:

- 7S: Support the use of State rail funding to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Federal:

- 1F (7): Coordinate with military installations in Monterey County to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to those installations.
- 1F (8): Support MST application for federal funding for the SURF! Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
- 4F: Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing integrated passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 5F: Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.

The Executive Committee discussed this draft legislative program on October 6, 2021, and on October 27, 2021, the Board approved releasing it to Committees for input. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee and

the Technical Advisory Committee will review the draft in November. Staff will also meet with partner agencies locally and statewide to discuss common issues. Following the Executive Committee's review of the draft program on January 5, 2022, the final program will come back to the Board on January 26, 2022 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft 2022 Legislative Program



DRAFT 2022 Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S.** Preserve funding for transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S.** Pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, public transportation, infrastructure resiliency, and bicycle and pedestrian routes for Monterey County projects.
- 3S.** Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, such as via funding reduced transit fares, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S.** Support funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric power storage capacity, and rebates for electric vehicle purchase.
- 5S.** Explore replacement funding mechanisms for transportation investments, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, vehicle registration fee, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.
- 6S.** Support funding to increase broadband infrastructure capacity to help bridge the digital divide, including promoting new server farms in rural areas, and to encourage telecommuting to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- 7S.** Support the use of State rail funding to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 8S.** Support efforts to reauthorize Public Private Partnership authority, public tolling authority, and design-build authority, expand mode eligibility, and allow for regional control of such projects
- 9S.** Support legislation to increase safety and reduce fatalities by modifying laws establishing speed limits to be based on safety considerations, with attention to enforcement of speed limits.

- 10S.** Support legislation to devote more funding to the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- 11S.** Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 12S.** Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) to update Transportation Development Act (TDA) law.
- 13S.** Support MST efforts to seek funding to implement the infrastructure needed to meet the deadlines of the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation transition to a 100 percent zero-emission bus fleet by 2040.
- 14S.** Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 15S.** Modernize the Brown Act to enhance transparency and wider public access to allow the use of remote access to public meetings without requiring noticing of all remote Board or committee member locations, provided the public can participate via remote access software or in-person.
- 16S.** Support member agencies' requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



DRAFT 2022 Legislative Program

Federal Priorities

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds in the multimodal transportation authorization bill:
 1. Support an adequate level of funding for Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) through advocacy on a new transportation bill with appropriations sufficient to ensure immediate access to funding.
 2. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
 3. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a vehicle registration fee, pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.
 4. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
 5. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding, including cash flow options for small and rural grantees.
 6. Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation priorities.
 7. Coordinate with military installations in Monterey County to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to those installations.
 8. Support MST application for federal funding for the SURF! Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
 9. Support applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Discretionary Grant program for projects on the California Central Coast.
 10. Support funding for resilient infrastructure projects.

- 2F.** Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F.** Advocate for the Federal Communications Commission to regulate broadband/internet access as a utility to enable the increase of broadband infrastructure capacity to help bridge the digital divide and to encourage telecommuting.
- 4F.** Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing integrated passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 5F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 6F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in September include work related to closing out permits for the construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Monterey County Rail Extension 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 secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance.

Package 1 is under construction by MPE Engineering for an original contract amount of \$7,487,989 with a contingency fund of \$1,123,200. Approved change orders to date total \$809,641.69, or 72.1% of the contingency fund approved by the Board.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 1, known as the Kick Start Project, includes Salinas train station circulation improvements, a train layover facility in Salinas, and track improvements at the Gilroy station and between Salinas and Gilroy. The Kick Start Project is wrapping up construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Construction of Package 1: Salinas Station Improvements

TAMC hired Monterey Peninsula Engineering (MPE) for construction of Package 1, MNS Engineers as Construction Managers on the project, and HDR Engineering to provide design support during construction. In October 2021, the construction team worked to close out the Caltrans and Salinas permits. Once the permits have been closed, remaining work is landscaping maintenance through December 2021. Staff will bring a project close-out report to the TAMC Board in December.

TAMC staff is coordinating with Caltrans and the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City, pursuant to the adopted Memorandum of Understanding. The land transfer must be approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to empower the City and TAMC to approve transfer agreements. The CTC is requiring the City to commit to replacing any parking spaces used for future development in a location walking distance from the station.

Property Acquisition for Package 2: Salinas Layover Facility

On December 4, 2019, the Transportation Agency Board approved Resolutions of Necessity on portions of four parcels and one full parcel needed for the Salinas layover facility. TAMC staff continues to oversee the right-of-way consulting team of AR/WS and Meyers Nave to further negotiations and finalize the remaining acquisitions. A request for proposals for a team to assist in the negotiations regarding Union Pacific Railroad parcels in Gilroy and Salinas has a deadline of October 28.

Final Design for Package 2 and Package 3: Gilroy Station & Track Improvements; Operations Scenarios

The final design team held the following meetings to further the project's design:

- Caltrans and Caltrain - October 8 and 19
- City of Salinas - October 27
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and City of Gilroy - October 11
- Union Pacific and Caltrans - October 15

Documents the team is preparing for future Committee/Board approval include the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding between TAMC and Caltrain outlining the process towards an operating agreement.
- Memorandum of Understanding among TAMC, VTA and Gilroy for improvements near the Gilroy train station to support the extension of passenger rail service south from Gilroy.
- Package 1 construction contract close-out report.
- Contract extension for MNS Engineers, whose Construction Management contract, which includes all three construction packages, expires 12/31/21.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail 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 to this Committee in October includes a meeting of the Policy Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail project capital and operation costs are under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) is a multi-agency advisory and planning organization focused on improving the rail corridor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco bay area along the California Central Coast. Members of Council include all regional transportation planning agencies along the Central Coast – all of which have a strong interest in improving rail service and the rail infrastructure along the Central Coast’s portion of the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor.

The Policy Committee met on October 15 and discussed state grant options. The Working Group is scheduled for a call on November 19. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for December 10. King City held a workshop and tour of their Accelerated Access Platform project on September 30. Any substantive information provided at these meetings will be presented verbally at the meeting.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: Reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [September 2021 Capitol Corridor monthly report](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [October 7, 2021 Weekly article, "On Track: a long-stalled commuter rail extension project from Gilroy to Salinas is making critical progress, and finally has an estimated arrival time"](#) (Slightly different version online [here](#))
- [October 15, 2021 article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, "Streetcar demonstration opens to the public in Watsonville, Santa Cruz: despite support, roar over a form of rail rolls on"](#)
- [October 21, 2021 Pacific Surfliner news release, "CIRCLE Advocacy Coalition Formed by California Intercity Rail Corridors: The California's Intercity Rail Corridors Linking Everyone \(CIRCLE\) coalition will seek to educate federal lawmakers and intercity rail stakeholders on California's growing intercity passenger system"](#)