

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of November 6, 2017

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	OCT 16	NOV 16	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY 17	JUN 17	SEPT 17	OCT 17	NOV 17
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	E	P(A)	P(A)	P	C	P(A)	E	P(A)	C	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)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	E	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	N	E
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P	P	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	-	P(A)	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	E	-	P	E	L	P	E	P	L	E
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	P(A)	P	P	E	L	P	P	P	L	E
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	E	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	P	P	D	P	P	P	D	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	E	P	P		-	P	P		P
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	E	-		-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	P	E	-	-		-	-	-		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	E		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	P	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
STAFF										
D. Hale, Exec. Director	E	P	E	P		E	P	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
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	E		P
A. Green, Associate Trans. Planner	-	-	-	P		-	-			-
T. Wright Community Outreach Coordinator	-	-	-	P		P	-	E		P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Andy Cook	Caltrans	James Serrano	City of Salinas
Paul Greenway	MNS Engineers	Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas
Paul Powers	Salinas resident	Cheryl Yu	County of Monterey

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/Bodem/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the September 11, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Approved 2018 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

3.3 Received the call for nominations for the seventeenth annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2018 CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN

Andy Cook, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation, presented an overview of the draft 2018 California State Rail Plan. Mr. Cook noted that the State Rail Plan serves as the State's guide and investment plan for the State's passenger rail network. The passenger component of the plan is based on a proposed "Integrated Network" to provide "Core Services" with coordinated schedules and efficient transfers providing access to and supporting convenient intercity rail travel. Mr. Cook noted that 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. He reported that the Salinas Rail Extension project is included in the short-term program of projects.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that the Plan was published on October 11, 2017 for a 60-day public review period. Comments are due December 11, 2017.

Committee alternate Stratton asked if the rail plan looked at trolleys or other types of rail as part of the Plan. Mr. Cook clarified that light rail and trolleys are not part of the Plan, but noted that the Plan analyzes connectivity to local light rail and other local transit services.

Committee member LeBarre asked if rail service to King City is in the near-term program of projects. Mr. Cook said it is in the 2022 scenario, assumed to be served by the Coast Starlight. Ms. Watson noted that rail service to Salinas, Pajaro, Castroville, Soledad and King City are all on the near-term list.

Committee member Chavez asked about passenger access rights on the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Mr. Cook reported that the California State Transportation Agency has been coordinating with Union Pacific to develop an agreement for access payments to facilitate passenger rail on the Central Coast.

Executive Director Debbie Hale asked about the proposed study on implementation of a Central Coast rail network. Mr. Cook said that the study would be a state-led effort with coordination among the relevant agencies.

Vice Chair Delgado asked if conventional rail is envisioned for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, and noted that TAMC has plans for light rail on the Monterey Branch Line. Mr. Cook noted that conventional rail is in the State Rail Plan now with the intent of preserving rail corridors, but that future State Rail Plans can reflect the local choice of light rail upon implementation.

Vice Chair Delgado noted that he attended a Land Watch presentation on Portland's rail transportation network. He asked if the Rail Plan considers highway projects that will not be needed due to passenger rail development. Mr. Cook said Caltrans might analyze this and noted that Caltrans has become more multimodal in recent years.

5. **2018 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. The program notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the agency.

Vice Chair Delgado noted that the legislative program is very thorough.

6. **COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE**

M/S/C Rubio/Stratton/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 Board adoption of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Memorandum of Understanding in concept.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on September 11, 2017, includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Technical and Policy Committee. She presented the draft MOU.

Committee member Rubio commented that the draft MOU does not include the anticipated work program, specific work assignments to member agencies, or quantify the associated costs.

Committee member LeBarre commented that this MOU would demonstrate to the State that there is regional coordination.

7. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on September 11, 2017, include meetings related to operations scenarios and progress in the acquisition of properties in Salinas. Ms. Watson also reported that staff is anticipating applying for approximately \$110 million of Transit and Intercity

Rail Capital Program grant funding to fully fund the Salinas Kick-Start project and the full buildout of the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Ms. Watson reported that she attended a meeting of the Northern California Megaregion group to discuss short-term operations for the Salinas Rail Extension project. She reported that Caltrain is a potential short-term operator, with Capitol Corridor providing service in the long-term.

Mr. Zeller reported that all Package 1 parcels are now in TAMC's possession, with at least two settlement agreements expected to be on the December TAMC Board meeting.

Vice Chair Delgado noted that he and other TAMC Board members attended meetings in Sacramento to advocate for a doubling of grant program funds for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. Ms. Watson noted that this round of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital program funding is a 5-year program funded through \$1 billion of cap and trade funds plus and additional \$1.4 billion of SB 1 funds.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member Rubio requested an update of the MST Bus on Shoulder/Monterey Branch Line feasibility study. Committee alternate Rheinheimer noted that this would likely be ready for the February Rail Policy Committee meeting.

Committee member Rubio asked if the TAMC funding plan will include funding the MST bus on shoulder/Monterey Branch Line. Executive Director Hale said this was included, and that this item will be presented at the December 6 TAMC Board meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.