



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

Rail Policy Committee

Monday, November 6, 2023

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

MEETING LOCATION

Voting members must attend a physical meeting location to count towards quorum

*55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901
Transportation Agency Conference Room*

Alternate Locations with Zoom Connection Open to the Public

*2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933
Supervisor Askew's Office*

*11140 Speegle St., Castroville CA, 95012
Supervisor Church's Office*

*168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901
Supervisor Alejo's Office*

Members of the public & non-voting members may 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

Please note: If all committee members are present in person, public participation by Zoom is for convenience only and is not required by law. If the Zoom feed is lost for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted, but the meeting may continue at the discretion of the Chairperson.

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

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 an 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 is 7 of the following members: Adams, Askew, Alejo, Carbone, Chavez, Church, LeBarre, Medina-Dirksen, Oglesby, Potter, Sandoval and Smith.

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 COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. 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 Board 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 Monday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Board before the meeting.

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.

3. 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 Rail Policy Committee Minutes for October 2, 2023.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the October 2, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. APPROVE the 2024 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

- Christina Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2024 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 22nd Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

- Theresa Wright

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in the county by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards.

- 3.4. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Christina Watson, Michael Zeller

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in August include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

- 3.5. **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

4. **DISCUSS** project candidates for state transit and zero emission funding and **RECOMMEND** projects to the Board of Directors.

- Christina Watson, Alissa Guther

On July 10, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law, which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). TAMC is slated to receive \$44.5 million over two years in TIRCP formula funds and \$8 million over four years for the ZETCP. All funds need to be programmed and received by TAMC by June 30, 2028.

5. **REVIEW** and **PROVIDE COMMENTS** on the draft 2024 Legislative Program.

- Christina 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.

6. **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update:**

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

2. **RECOMMEND** Board of Directors approve increased annual membership dues for the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) from \$2,500 to \$3,000 annually; and
3. **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors appoint representatives to the CRCC Policy Committee.

- Christina Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

7. **DISCUSS** October 13, 2023 lunch with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation County Commissioners and staff and visit of the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station site and next steps for inter-agency collaboration.

- Alissa Guther

An informal lunch/meet and greet and site visit with members of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Rail Policy Committee and TAMC staff and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission members and associates was held on Friday, October 13, 2023.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting
Monday, January 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA 93901**

A quorum of voting members is required to be present to hold this meeting.

There will be a zoom link for hybrid participation.

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

Important Meeting Information

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
55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901
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 Board may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any support papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: Draft October RPC Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for October 2, 2023.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the October 2, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

DISCUSSION:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_October_2023_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of October 2, 2023

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901 - Transportation Agency Conference Room

Alternate locations: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933 - Supervisor Askew's Office and

11140 Speegle Street, Castroville CA, 95012 Supervisor Church's Office

168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901, Supervisor Alejo's Office

	NOV 22	DEC 22	JAN 23	FEB 23	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN 23	JUL 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez , J. Gomez)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P	C	P	P	C	N	P	P	P(A) (VC)
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	A	O	A	P	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson , E. Mora)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	N	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N		P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	P(A)	M	E	A	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	M	E	A	P(A) (VC)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	A	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	E	P	P	L	A	A	L	E	A	A	A
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	A	T	P	A	L	P	A	L	T	P	A	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	P	I	P	P	E	E	P	E	I	A	P	P
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	P(A)	N	A	A	D	A	A	D	N	A	A	A
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	G	P	P		P	P		G	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Cabera, D. Wilcox)	A		P	P		P	P			P	P	A
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)	P		P	P		E	P			E	A	E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	P(A)		A	P(A)		P(A)	P(A) (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5	P		P	P		A	P (VC)			A	A	P(A) (VC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer / M. Overmeyer)	P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	P (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)

3.4 Received media clippings attached online.

3.5 Received correspondence.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. STATE TRANSIT AND ZERO EMISSION FUNDING PROJECT CANDIDATES

The Committee discussed project candidates for state transit and zero emissions funding.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, noted that on July 10, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law, which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). She reported that the Transportation Agency will be responsible for distributing the funds and that there is no deadline for expenditure. She mentioned the possible rail projects include:

- Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station
- Salinas Rail Extension
- King City Train Platform
- Central Coast Rail Positive Train Control (PTC)

Ms. Guther noted staff is still working with Monterey-Salinas Transit on possible bus projects:

- MST Operating Shortfall
- SURF! Busway
- Electric Bus Charging
- Zero Emission Buses
- Monterey Bay Microgrid & Hydrogen Electric Bus
- Salinas Valley Hydrogen Electric Bus

Ms. Guther noted that TAMC staff will bring a project list to the November Committee meeting for a recommendation to the Board.

Lisa Rheinheimer, MST Assistant General Manager & Deputy Treasurer, noted that four of the items on their project list will help MST achieve compliance with the unfunded mandate of a zero-emission fleet by 2040.

Committee members made the following comments and direction to staff:

- Consider how this funding can be best leveraged to set up the projects for future grant applications.
- Provide a recommended funding allocation to the November RPC that reflects a balance between rail and bus priorities and a regional perspective.

5. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that TAMC received \$2.3 million to fund environmental review documentation, subject to allocation by the California Transportation Commission on December 6.

Ms. Guther reported an update on the proposed October 13, 2023, lunch and site visit with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) in Pajaro/Watsonville. She noted that it will not be a public meeting, but a meet-and-greet and a first step toward a more formal working relationship that will include public meetings in the future.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson announced that TAMC is seeking nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards that honor individuals, businesses, groups, or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County. She noted that the deadline to submit a nomination is December 1, 2023.

7. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: **2024 Calendar of Meetings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the 2024 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2024 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 2024 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 8*
- February 5
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- August 5
- September 9*
- October 7
- November 4

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 8, since the first Monday is New Year's Day, and the September meeting will be on September 9, since the first Monday is Labor Day. The meeting time will remain the same: 3:00 p.m.

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.

The meetings will be held at the TAMC conference room at 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, or another location to be determined in advance of each meeting (the agenda will specify).

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: **Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 22nd Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

SUMMARY:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in the county by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

With the Transportation Excellence Awards, the Transportation Agency shows 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, and programs or projects.

Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Projects that exemplify TAMC's mission to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environmental quality, and economic activities in Monterey County.
- Innovative activities that promote safer or 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
- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system.

The nomination form is attached to this staff report and is also available on the Transportation Agency website. Board members are encouraged to distribute nomination forms and submit nominations. 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 1, 2023. The

Transportation Agency Executive Committee will select the awards recipients at its January 2024 meeting, and the awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 24, 2024 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Transportation Excellence Awards Nomination Form 2023

WEB ATTACHMENTS:



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 1, 2023** via online, 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, Director of Planning, Michael Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery

Meeting Date: November 6, 2023

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 August include operations scenario discussions and design 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.

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 has wrapped 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.

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. All of these property acquisitions have been completed. One parcel remains that is potentially required for the project that is owned by Union Pacific, however property rights negotiations are on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans.

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

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and has gathered stakeholder input on those plans. The current design schedule anticipates Union Pacific review of the designs - which includes the California Public Utilities Commission permit for changes to grade crossings in Gilroy - wrapping up in the fall of 2024. The schedule shows utility relocation concluding in spring 2024, property acquisition concluding with a

Right-of-Way certification in early 2025, and going out to bid in early 2025. Construction of the two packages is expected to overlap starting early 2025, ending in fall 2026. As usual, the project schedule is dependent on partner agencies, in particular Union Pacific as the owner of the tracks and Caltrain as the operator of the service.

Since the last report to this Committee, the design team has held design review meetings with the City of Salinas, the City of Gilroy, Caltrain and MNS (the project's construction management team).

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

SUMMARY:**FINANCIAL IMPACT:****DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [October 23, 2023 report on KSBW, "Elkhorn Slough Reserve receives state funding to combat climate damage"](#)
- [October 29, 2023 article in the Monterey County Herald, "Boosting Elkhorn Slough climate change plan"](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee

From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning, Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner

Meeting Date: November 6, 2023

Subject: **State Transit and Zero Emission Funding Project Candidates**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS project candidates for state transit and zero emission funding and **RECOMMEND** projects to the Board of Directors.

SUMMARY:

On July 10, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law, which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). TAMC is slated to receive \$44.5 million over two years in TIRCP formula funds and \$8 million over four years for the ZETCP. All funds need to be programmed and received by TAMC by June 30, 2028.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

TAMC will be responsible for programming \$44,492,239 over two years and \$7,983,565 over four years for ZETCP by June 30, 2028. There is no deadline for expenditure of funds once TAMC has received the funds.

DISCUSSION:

The TIRCP formula funds can be used for high-priority transit capital projects consistent with the uses allowed in Cycle 6 of TIRCP, which includes existing capital projects, project development for major projects or new TIRCP projects. TIRCP funding can also be used to fund transit operating expenses that prevent service cuts and increase ridership for operators within the TAMC jurisdiction, subject to compliance.

The ZETCP moneys can be used for zero emission transit equipment, including, but not limited to, zero emission vehicles and refueling infrastructure. These funds can also be used to fund transit operating expenditures that prevent service reduction or elimination in order to maintain or increase ridership.

CalSTA will accept project lists for review with a deadline of December 31, 2023. The first year of funding for TIRCP and the ZETCP is already available for distribution once required materials are submitted and must be fully encumbered or expended and liquidated by CalSTA by June 30, 2028. Fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 funds for TIRCP and the ZETCP must be disbursed to TAMC by this deadline. Once received, there is no deadline for TAMC to expend the funds.

Before December 31, 2023, TAMC must submit compiled transit operator data, then determine

whether funds will be applied to transit operations either in FY 23-24 or prior to the end of FY 26-27. The submission of transit operator data must be consistent with adopted guidelines, but at minimum must include: operator fleet and asset management plans; revenue collection methods and annual collection costs by operator; the existing service plan and planned changes; expenditures on security and safety measures; opportunities for restructuring, eliminating redundancies, and improving coordination amongst transit operators; and schedule data in General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) format.

If no funds are to be applied to operations in FY23-24, then no other materials need to be submitted. If funds are to be applied to transit operations in FY23-24, then TAMC must submit a regional short-term financial plan. A short-term financial plan should demonstrate how the region will address any operational deficit using all available funds (besides SB125 funds) through FY 2025–26. It should justify how the region’s funding is proposed to be allocated to capital and operational expenses and show how the funding distributed between transit operators and among projects is consistent with program guidelines. The plan should demonstrate mitigating service cuts, fare increases, or layoffs for short-term financial sustainability and ridership improvement strategies. Agencies that do not submit complete information will have until April 30, 2024 to correct their filings.

A maximum of 1% of total multi-year funding, or just shy of \$525,000, may be programmed by TAMC for administration of funding and planning expenses related to developing the long-term financial plan.

Staff will present a list of candidate projects for the Committee to consider and recommend to the Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Senate Bill 125 transit program website](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: **Draft 2024 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

REVIEW and **PROVIDE COMMENTS** on the draft 2024 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 2024 legislative program (**attached**) continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2024 legislative session.

Items of particular interest to this Committee include:

State:

- 3S. Pursue funding for rail projects.
- 4S. Promote jobs-housing balance via rail expansion.
- 8S. Support increase in State rail funding to implement state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast route.
- 15S. Support clean commutes, multi-modal transportation, and bikes on board trains and buses.

Federal:

- 2F(2). Support funding for Amtrak and state-supported passenger rail.
- 4F. Coordinate with regional military installations to seek funding for transportation with a nexus to operations at those installations.
- 10F. Support streamlining of federal rail funding.
- 11F. Support the use of Federal rail funding for passenger rail on the Coast route.

The Executive Committee discussed this draft legislative program on October 4, 2023, and on October 25, 2023, 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 in January, the final program

will come back to the Board on January 24, 2024 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DRAFT TAMC 2024 Leg Program

WEB ATTACHMENTS:



2024 Legislative Program

DRAFT State Priorities

- 1S.** Preserve funding for all modes of transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting for infrastructure needs, particularly safety projects, and the delivery of voter-approved programs and projects.
- 2S.** Advocate for proportionality on the application of vehicle miles traveled metrics in comparison to larger metro areas in the state, particularly for completing multi-modal corridors or highway projects in less densely populated or disadvantaged areas of the county, to increase safety for commuters, enhance routes needed for evacuation from climate events, goods movement, and tourism travel.
- 3S.** Leverage Measure X funds and partner with state agencies to 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.
- 4S.** Promote jobs-housing balance and clean transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, such as via funding reduced transit fares, rail expansion, and frequent bus service, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 5S.** Support funding for zero-emission fuel initiatives that enhance mobility and accessibility while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric power storage capacity, electrical grid reliability, hydrogen hubs, and incentives for electric bike and vehicle purchases.
- 6S.** Explore replacement funding mechanisms to the gas and diesel tax for transportation investments, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, full conversion to a vehicle registration fee, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.
- 7S.** Support the promotion of telecommuting to reduce vehicle miles traveled via broadband investments in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, support the inclusion of local

government representation in the administration of broadband infrastructure funding, and support new server farms in rural areas.

- 8S.** Support an increase in State rail funding, such as the State Rail Assistance program, Public Transportation Account, or any successor or supplemental source, or redistribution of cap-and-trade proceeds, to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 9S.** 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.
- 10S.** Support legislation that increases roadway safety by implementing Vision Zero strategies and improving driver safety training.
- 11S.** Support sustainable funding for the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- 12S.** Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 13S.** Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) to augment state transit funding programs to provide ongoing operational support.
- 14S.** 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.
- 15S.** Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, clean commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 16S.** 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.
- 17S.** 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.



2024 Legislative Program

DRAFT Federal Priorities

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds.
- 2F.** Support adequate funding for the following transportation priorities:
 1. Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) District capital projects, vehicles, and operations.
 2. Amtrak and state-supported passenger rail, including a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
 3. Zero-emission vehicle infrastructure for transit and personal vehicles.
 4. Active transportation projects, including Vision Zero.
- 3F.** Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation priorities.
- 4F.** Coordinate with regional military installations to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to operations at those installations.
- 5F.** Support applications for Department of Transportation discretionary grant and climate resiliency/ adaptation grant programs for projects on the California Central Coast.
- 6F.** Preserve regional discretion and priority-setting for infrastructure needs.
- 7F.** Support programmatic flexibility in federal funding for infrastructure.
- 8F.** 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.
- 9F.** Support availability of funding for enhanced broadband and 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.

- 10F.** 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.
- 11F.** Support the use of Federal rail funding to implement new passenger rail service on the Coast Route.
- 12F.** 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, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:**Coast Corridor Rail Project Update:**

1. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles;
2. **RECOMMEND** Board of Directors approve increased annual membership dues for the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) from \$2,500 to \$3,000 annually; and
3. **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors appoint representatives to the CRCC Policy Committee.

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council 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 the 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 Board voted to increase member agency dues on October 15, 2021, from \$2,500 to \$3,000 per agency, to be effective for the fiscal year 2023/24. Those dues have now been billed, and the Agency Budget includes this amount, but the Rail Policy Committee has not discussed the increase, so staff now requests the Committee recommend the Board approve the increase in CRCC dues. The TAMC Board adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on August 22, 2018 that included dues in the amount of \$1,500 per year. The Board approved an increase to \$2,500 per year on January 23, 2019.

The Transportation Agency Board previously appointed Mayor Dave Potter (RPC Vice Chair) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, and Mayor Potter has been its Chair for several years. Staff asks the Committee to consider recommending the Board reappoint

both to the Council for 2024. The appointment involves attending up to four meetings of the Committee and potentially representing the group at a legislative day in Sacramento, should it occur in 2024.

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on October 20 in Santa Barbara (see **web attachment 1** for the agenda), and the working group met virtually on September 15. The next virtual working group meetings are November 17 and December 15. The next Policy meeting is planned for February 16, 2024 in San Jose. **Web attachment 2** is the draft 2024 meeting schedule.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [CRCC Policy meeting October 20, 2023](#)
2. [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: Pajaro/Watsonville Site Visit Debrief

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS October 13, 2023 lunch with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation County Commissioners and staff and visit of the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station site and next steps for inter-agency collaboration.

SUMMARY:

An informal lunch/meet and greet and site visit with members of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Rail Policy Committee and TAMC staff and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission members and associates was held on Friday, October 13, 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

TAMC staff invites Rail Policy Committee members to discuss the lunch and site visit and the next steps for inter-agency collaboration between TAMC and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Topics discussed included a general overview of each county's efforts in the Pajaro/Watsonville Area. The agenda with participants is attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 10-13-23 RPC-SCCRTC meeting Agenda and Itinerary

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda for Lunch and Site Visit of Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station

Informal lunch/meet and greet and site visit with members of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Rail Policy Committee and TAMC staff and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission members and associates.

Friday, October 13, 2023, 11:30AM-2PM

Location: Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant: <https://goo.gl/maps/c7H6n7CV1YQ2v97m9>

Schedule:

11:30AM meet for lunch

Topics:

- General Overview of Santa Cruz Efforts
- General Overview of Monterey County Efforts

1:15-1:30PM drive to station site

1:30-2:00PM tour and discussion at site

Attendees:

RPC/TAMC:

- Supervisor Luis Alejo, Monterey County District 1
- Leonie Gray, Supervisor Church's Office
- Vanessa Acevedo, Supervisor Church's Office
- Mayor Mike LeBarre, King City, TAMC Chair
- Mayor Ian Oglesby, City of Seaside
- Lance Okuno, SLOCOG/CRCC
- Todd Muck, TAMC Executive Director
- Christina Watson, TAMC Director of Planning
- Alissa Guther, TAMC Assistant Transportation Planner

SCCRTC/Santa Cruz Delegation:

- Alexander Pedersen, SCCRTC Commissioner
- Manu Koenig, SCCRTC Chair
- Felipe Hernandez, SCCRTC Commissioner
- Grace Blakeslee, SCCRTC Staff
- Guy Preston, SCCRTC Executive Director
- Nancy Billicich, former Mayor of Watsonville
- Shane McKeithen, Manu Koenig's Office
- Kristen Brown, SCCRTC Vice-Chair