



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 4, 2024

****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, Cabrera, Carbone, Church, Delgado, LeBarre, 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 Board on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. All public comments are limited to three (3) minutes, unless specified otherwise by the committee chair. 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 Thursday 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 September 9, 2024.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the September 9, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. APPROVE the 2025 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

- Christina Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2025 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 23rd 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** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

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

- Christina Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections), and right-of-way negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad.

5. **REVIEW** and **PROVIDE COMMENTS** on the draft 2025 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. **RECEIVE** update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the selection of a consultant for the environmental review phase of the project and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

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

- Christina Watson

Activity since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes

meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council working group and attendance at the 2024 California Passenger Rail Summit.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS

9. ADJOURN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting
Monday, November 4, 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 five (5) 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, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for September 9, 2024.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the September 9, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

DISCUSSION:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_September_9_2024_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of September 9, 2024

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

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

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

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

	SEP 23	OCT 23	NOV 23	JAN 24	FEB 24	MAR 24	APR 24	MA Y 24	JUN 24	JUL 24	AUG 24	SEP 24
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P	C	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	C	P(A) (VC)	N	P	P
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A	P (VC)	O	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson, E. Mora)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)	M	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	A	E	A	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina (J. McAdams)	A	A	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)	T	A	E
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	A	P	P	E	L	P	P	L	P	I	P	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	P	P	P	P(A)	E	P	A	E	A	N	A	A
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	A	A	P	A	D	P	P	D	P	G	P	P
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	A	P		A	A		E		A	A
F. Cabrera, Soledad (A. Velazquez)	P	A	A	P		P	E		E		P	P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)	A	E	P	P		P	P		P		P	E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	P(A) (VC)	E	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5	A	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)		P (VC)	A		A		P (VC)	P (VC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)

STAFF	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
T. Muck, Executive Director	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	N	E	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	O	P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	E	E	P (VC)	E	N	P (VC)	E	N	E	M	P (VC)	P (VC)
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P	P	P	C	P	E	C	E	E	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P (VC)	A	P	P	E	E	E	E	P	E	P (VC)	P (VC)
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)	A	L	P	T	A	A
A. Guther, Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	L	P	I	P	P
A. Sambrano Transp. Planner	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P	E	P (VC)	P (VC)	E	P	N	P (VC)	P (VC)
J. Strause, Associate Transp. Planner	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	A	D	E	E	D	E	G	P	P
J. Kise, Director of Finance & Administration	-	-	-	A		A	P		P		A	P
M. Park, Finance Officer/Analyst	-	-	-	-		-	-		P		P	P

P = Present A = Absent P(A) = Alternate Present E = Excused (VC) = Video Conference

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 Gatten	Caltrans	Frank Lopez	Public
Linda Gonzalez	Alternate District 1	Roland LeBrun	Public
Javier Gomez	Alternate District 1		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Smith/Alejo/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 5, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 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, Transportation Planner, reported the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) Policy Committee met on August 22-23 in San Luis Obispo discussed the following:

- Legislative Update, including Senate Bill 1098, state budget challenges, and a potential qualified voter initiative involving passenger rail services;
- Federal Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) program updates included that Caltrans is reviewing projects for the program and will then develop a Service Development Plan to be completed in the next few years;
- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations; and
- Dreamstar overnight rail service proposal and information on their potential ridership and train set design, and a discussion on how the service could conflict with planned operations from Metrolink, LOSSAN, CCJPA, and other plans.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Dreamstar proposal lacked specificity but shows that the underused rail line is an important asset.

5. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported the design team has continued to coordinate design review with Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Salinas.

Mike Zeller, Director of Planning and Programming, reported that four parcels remain that are potentially required for the layover facility and Gilroy track improvements, which are owned by Union Pacific. He noted that Property rights negotiations are on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans. Mr. Zeller noted that the staff has requested permission to begin discussions with the Union Pacific real estate division to secure a right-of-way certification by the end of the year for the February CTC meeting.

Ms. Watson reported that staff continue to work with Caltrain on operations and announced a train tour in Palo Alto on Saturday, September 21.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Board approved a contract with HDR Engineering. She noted that a kickoff meeting and site visit was held on August 14, 2024.

Ms. Guther noted that a Notice of Preparation workshop is proposed for November 20, 2024, to engage the community.

Committee Member Alejo also noted that to celebrate local railroad history staff should work with the Arts Council on murals about the all-women railroad crew working in the area in the 1940's.

Chair LeBarre asked staff to schedule another joint meeting with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and invite the Watsonville Mayor.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that the next Rail Policy meeting is scheduled on October 7, 2024.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: **2025 Calendar of Meetings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the 2025 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2025 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 2025 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 13*
- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5
- June 2
- August 4
- September 8*
- October 6
- November 3

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 13, since the first Monday is close to the winter holidays, and the September meeting will be on September 8, 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 4, 2024
Subject: **Transportation Excellence Awards**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 23rd 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 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 6, 2024. The Transportation Agency Executive Committee will select the awards recipients at its January 2025

meeting, and the awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 22, 2025, Transportation Agency Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Transportation Excellence Awards Nomination Form 2024

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 6, 2024** 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
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

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

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [September 5, 2024 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "Monterey-Salinas Transit's embattled SURF! project is now riding a wave toward approval"](#)
- [September 5, 2024 article on Route Fifty, "Bus agencies are turning to California for their 'tap to pay' fare systems"](#)
- [September 11, 2024 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "The Coastal Commission is set to consider the complicated case of the SURF! busway."](#)
- [September 13, 2024 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "Coastal Commission approves MST SURF! busway in a 7-1 vote"](#)
- [September 20, 2024 article in the Monterey Herald, "Monterey-Salinas Transit poised to build new bus road; MST eyes January groundbreaking for transit project from Marina to Sand City"](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
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 include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections), and right-of-way negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad.

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 to total \$87 million for all phases of work. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance and is currently in the final design phase.

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 Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Final Design

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and has gathered stakeholder input on those plans. Since the last report to this Committee, the design team has continued to coordinate design review with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).

Operations Scenarios

Caltrans held a meeting to discuss next steps on the Central Coast Service Deployment (CCSD) Playbook to advance technical work to bring rail service to Monterey County. The CCSD will review and answer questions regarding operations, costs, funding, governance, and host railroad coordination for the new service, starting with the Salinas extension and culminating in service to San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. One goal of this collaboration is to support TAMC and Caltrain in the development of an operations agreement.

Property Acquisition

Four parcels remain that are potentially required for the layover facility and Gilroy track improvements, which are owned by Union Pacific. Property rights negotiations have been on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans. However, TAMC staff has requested permission to begin discussions with the Union Pacific real estate division and are concurrently moving forward with the appraisal process to ensure that right-of-way certification for the project occurs before the February 2025 funding deadline.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: **Draft 2025 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

REVIEW and **PROVIDE COMMENTS** on the draft 2025 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 2025 legislative program (**attached**) continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2025 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.
- 14S. 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 2, 2024, and on October 23, 2024, 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 22, 2025 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DRAFT TAMC 2025 Leg Program

WEB ATTACHMENTS:



2025 Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S. Preserve funding for all modes of transportation projects, including the extension of grant programs, 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. Support the fair application of vehicle miles traveled metrics in rural and suburban areas that seek to complete multi-modal corridors or highway safety projects in underserved communities and address the jobs housing imbalance.
- 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.**~~**9S.** Support legislation that increases roadway safety by implementing Vision Zero strategies and improving driver safety training.
- ~~**11S.**~~**10S.** Support sustainable funding for the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- ~~**12S.**~~**11S.** Support streamlining project delivery, including early engagement of oversight agencies, simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- ~~**13S.**~~**12S.** Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) to monitor the Transportation Development Act (TDA) reform task force and augment state transit funding programs to provide ongoing operational support.
- ~~**14S.**~~**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, clean commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 15S.** Support investments in critical infrastructure and airspace access for carbon neutral advanced air mobility.
- 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.



2025 Legislative Program

Federal Priorities

1F. Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation 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 reauthorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to include the following priorities:

1. Stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds.
2. Reauthorize programs that support transportation infrastructure projects, including the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI), Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT), and Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant programs and Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
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.

~~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 investments in critical infrastructure and airspace access for carbon neutral advanced air mobility.
- ~~11F.~~
- 12F,13F. 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: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: Pajaro Multimodal Station Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the selection of a consultant for the environmental review phase of the project and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work will begin in 2024 with state-secured funding for environmental review. In December 2023, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) approved a \$2.3 million grant to cover the cost of California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act documentation. This documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for the design update and right of way work. The total estimated cost of pre-construction work for the Pajaro Multimodal Station Project, which includes environmental review, design, and right of way, is \$19.5 million.

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 2 is the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub. The proposed Pajaro/Watsonville station will be the connection point for Santa Cruz County to new passenger rail service on the Coast mainline tracks between Salinas and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as a hub for future round-the-bay service.

After a successful application to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), TAMC received \$2.3 million to fund environmental review documentation. In June 2024, the TAMC Board approved a contract between HDR, Inc. and TAMC for approved work. Project activities began in August 2024; future activities include:

- November 2024: Notice of Preparation Release
- November 20, 2024: Scoping Workshop

Meetings attended that pertain to the project:

- September 12, 2024: ZEPRT Project Development Team Meeting

Staff will provide a verbal update on all activities at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
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:

Activity since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council working group and attendance at the 2024 California Passenger Rail Summit.

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 CRCC working group met on September 20 and October 18, 2024 and discussed the following:

- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations;
- Dreamstar Lines overnight rail service proposal;
- Positive Train Control project; and
- Federal Corridor Identification and Development program.

RPC Chair Mike LeBarre and Vice Chair Dave Potter and TAMC staff attended the California Passenger Rail Summit in San Diego October 10-11. Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, presented on how TAMC is preparing to adapt the rail corridor through the Elkhorn Slough to the impacts of climate change. Christina Watson, Director of Planning, presented on the Monterey County Rail Extension project on a panel with Pete Rodgers, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments Executive Director, discussing the "emerging corridors" and proposed rail service on the coast.

The 2024 meeting schedule is online as a **web attachment**. The next Policy Committee meeting is planned for November 8 in Monterey.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)