



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, February 3, 2025

****2:00 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*

*248 Main Street, Soledad, CA 93960
Mayor Velazquez, Soledad City Hall*

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: Askew, Alejo, Carbone, Church, Daniels, Delgado, LeBarre, Oglesby, Sandoval, Smith and Velazquez.

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 Committee. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed two (2) 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 January 13, 2025.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the January 13, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

- Christina Watson

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

3.3. **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

4. **RECEIVE** presentation on the 2024 State Rail Plan and update on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) process.

- Christina Watson

Caltrans Division of Rail will present an update on the 2024 State Rail Plan and the Corridor ID process.

5. **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.

6. **RECEIVE** update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, coordination with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission staff, and Caltrans and Federal Railroad Administration coordination to discuss the Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) funding program.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025, at 2:00 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: February 3, 2025
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for January 13, 2025.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the January 13, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_January_2025_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of January 13, 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

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

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

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

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Cathy LaFata HDR Grace Blakslee SCCRTC
 Jasmine Mejia Cortez District 1

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Smith/Carbone/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the November 4, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received Media Clippings

3.3 Received Correspondence

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Committee held elections for Vice Chair for 2025-26.

M/S/C Smith / Mora /unanimous

Committee Member Smith nominated Committee Member Carbone as Vice Chair and the motion was seconded by Committee Alternate Mora.

Chair LeBarre reported that the Committee needs to select a Vice Chair from its membership to complete outgoing Vice Chair Potter's two-year term. To be eligible to serve as the Chair or Vice Chair, the person must be a voting Agency Board Member and have served on the Rail Policy Committee for at least one year.

5. COAST CORRIDOER RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

M/S/C Smith / Carbone /unanimous

Committee Member Smith nominated Dave Potter as the TAMC representative to the CRCC Policy Committee and Chair LeBarre as his alternate, and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Carbone.

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 the Board of Directors appoint representatives to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the project was awarded \$63 million to improve the rail between Monterey and Santa Barbara Counties. She also noted that appointments to the CRCC Policy Committee for the period ending January 2026 involves attending up to four meetings of the CRCC Policy Committee and potentially representing the group at a legislative day in Sacramento and the California Passenger Rail Summit.

Ms. Watson noted that the next CRCC Policy Committee meeting is planned for February 21 in Santa Barbara.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro Multimodal Station project held a Scoping Workshop that over 80 residents attended, as well as meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company and stakeholders on the design options, and with Caltrans staff to discuss the federal Corridor ID funding program. Ms. Guther noted that they have held Pajaro residents group meetings and Corridor ID coordination kick-off meeting with Federal Railroad Administration staff.

Committee Member Smith expressed concerns about floodplain mitigation options.

Ms. Guther replied that the area flooded in 2023, and she is setting up a meeting with the Army Corps to discuss levee repair work. She noted that a mitigation report will be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Committee members requested a report back on current projects at or near the Pajaro River.

7. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Package 2 and 3, and right-of-way appraisals for Union Pacific Railroad-owned property. Ms. Watson noted that the project will not meet the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding deadlines. She said that when the team has a revised construction cost estimate, staff will bring a new funding proposal to the Committee and the Board for feedback and approval.

Committee Member Smith noted to consider a Board workshop or study session to go over the more technical processes and considerations for funding the project for the new board members.

Chair LeBarre asked for the item to be brought back to lay out clear recommendations to keep the project funded. Executive Director Todd Muck replied that once we have an update on estimates and easements, we will bring the item to the Rail Policy Committee and Agency Board to approve.

Mike Zeller, TAMC Director of Programming & Project Delivery, reported on the right-of-way phase of work, noting staff has been working with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) on the plans, and trying to meet Caltrans right-of-way funding certification deadline. He noted the team continues to work on appraising parcels that TAMC may need to acquire access to from UPRR.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
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 on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council working group.

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 virtually on January 17, 2025 and discussed the following:

- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations;
- Transit & Intercity Capital Program grant award next steps;
- Positive Train Control project; and
- Federal Corridor Identification and Development program.

The draft 2025 meeting schedule is online as a **web attachment**. The next CRCC Policy Committee meeting is planned for February 21 in Santa Barbara.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

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

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

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

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [December 17, 2024 article in Mass Transit, "Transforming Rail Transit on the West Coast: Transit expansion and electrification projects in Washington and California have expanded mobility up and down the West Coast, connecting people and communities"](#)
- [January 10, 2025 article on Mass Transit, "California to have fully connected zero-emission rail network by 2050"](#)
- [January 15, 2025 article in Mass Transit, "Monterey-Salinas Transit's SURF! Busway and BRT project receives \\$22.2 million in federal funding; The federal funding adds to the \\$25 million in state funding expected to be committed in the coming months, making the project fully funded"](#)
- [January 21, 2025 article in Politico, "Trump kicks off potentially messy fight over Biden's infrastructure money; One of Trump's executive orders could imperil billions in funding for projects that states have already begun working on, some experts said"](#)
- [January 23, 2025 article in the Monterey Herald, "Monterey-Salinas Transit to get \\$450K to test new payment systems"](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
Subject: California State Rail Plan & Corridor ID Updates

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE presentation on the 2024 State Rail Plan and update on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) process.

SUMMARY:

Caltrans Division of Rail will present an update on the 2024 State Rail Plan and the Corridor ID process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Rail Plan outlines a vision for rail implementation that indicates state-level support for increased passenger rail service to Monterey County that will help the Agency secure future grant funds. The Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) process will directly support the advancement of Monterey County rail projects and enable them to secure federal grants.

DISCUSSION:

To meet California's environmental, economic, and equity goals, the State must continue to build towards a fully integrated, zero-emission rail and transit network. The California State Rail Plan provides solutions for congested corridors across California and identifies how the State will prioritize investments that provide Californians with more frequent, reliable rail service to more destinations, with travel times that are competitive with traveling by air and auto. Attached online as **web attachments** are the 2024 State Rail Plan, a fact sheet, and appendices.

The Rail Plan outlines a long-term vision to guide incremental service planning to support development of a statewide network, a 10-year service and capital plan representing phased goals for advancing the network design, and a 5-year capital program supporting near-term funding and programming needs. The service and connectivity goals along with corridor-level improvements required to deliver the Rail Plan are described in the capital program, which is split into three phases: capital projects identified for the next four years (2028); mid-range needs identified for the next decade (2034); and plans for long-range improvements and investments by 2050. Regional implementation planning and project delivery build on the Rail Plan, as communities realize improved service, develop regional networks, and set land use recommendations that leverage enhanced connectivity.

Integrated scheduling concepts are a component of the network integration initiatives described in the Rail Plan, which include development and implementation of the California Integrated Travel Program

(Cal-ITP) for integrated ticketing and modern fare collection supported by the State, as well as development of a statewide rail and bus equipment procurement program at Caltrans to strategically standardize long term equipment procurement around zero-emission technologies.

Near-term (2028) service goals for the Monterey Bay Area include service expansion from San Jose to Salinas to provide three round trips and enhanced connectivity to the Central Coast.

Midterm (2034) service goals include the doubling of service frequency between San Jose to Salinas.

Long-term (2050) service goals include extending all-day intercity service between San Jose and San Luis Obispo via Salinas with connections to a regional rail network connecting Santa Cruz and Monterey.

Chapter 4.5, Planning for Future Investments, cites the following under the header "Near-Term Vulnerabilities and Areas of Concern":

Elkhorn Slough is a large tidal salt marsh located on the central coast of California, near Monterey Bay, and serves as an important habitat for diverse wildlife, including birds, fish, and marine mammals. An 8-mile stretch of Highway 1 and nearby rail represents a critical commuting and freight expansion corridor in the area that is at risk due to rising sea levels. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), in partnership with Caltrans, is conducting the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Climate Resiliency Project, which addresses the vulnerability of the transportation infrastructure through the Elkhorn Slough, focusing on multimodal and nature-based solutions to climate change impacts. The initiative is backed by Caltrans' funding for preparing a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and project documentation.

The Federal Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) program includes \$500,000 for Caltrans to work with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and local sponsor agencies to prepare a Scope of Work for a Service Development Plan (SDP) for the Central Coast corridor. The SDP will outline details like train schedules, station locations, and potential economic impacts. The exact budget for the SDP is still being determined as part of the scoping process, but it is expected to be fully funded by Caltrans and the FRA through the Corridor ID program.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [2024 State Rail Plan](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Appendices](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
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 the City of Salinas.

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. TAMC staff requested permission to begin discussions with the Union Pacific real estate division and are coordinating this effort with the Agency's right-of-way consultants of Bender Rosenthal and Nossaman.

Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
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 meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, coordination with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission staff, and Caltrans and Federal Railroad Administration coordination to discuss the Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) funding program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work began in 2024 with state-secured funding for environmental review. In April 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 \$2.24 million to fund environmental review documentation, which is currently underway.

TAMC Staff has held or attended the following additional meetings regarding the station project:

- January 15, 2025: Corridor ID Coordination Monthly Meeting with Federal Railroad Administration
- January 21, 2025: Pajaro Long-Term Disaster Recovery Alliance Meeting
- January 22, 2025: Watsonville Rotary Club Presentation

Staff will provide a verbal update on project activities at the Rail Policy Committee Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS: