



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, January 13, 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

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, Potter, 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. All public comments are limited to three (2) 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 Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the 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 November 4, 2024.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the November 4, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

3.3. RECEIVE correspondence.

- Christina Watson

4. **HOLD** elections for Vice Chair for 2025-26.

- Christina Watson

The bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year. Dave Potter, Vice Chair for 2024, is no longer in elected office, necessitating a new election for Vice Chair for the remainder of his term, 2025-26.

5. **Coast Corridor Rail Project:**

1. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles; and
2. **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors appoint representatives to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

- Christina Watson

The Transportation Agency Board previously appointed Mayor Dave Potter (RPC Vice Chair) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Staff asks the Committee to recommend the Board appoint members to the Council for 2025.

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

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the Scoping Workshop on November 20, 2024 as well as meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, stakeholders on the design options and Caltrans staff to discuss the Corridor ID funding program.

7. **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.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**

9. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Next Committee meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025, 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: January 13, 2025
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for November 4, 2024.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the November 4, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_November_4_2024_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of November 4, 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

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

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

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

Sam Sargent	Caltrain	Frank Lopez	Public
Jasmine Mejia Cortez	District 1	Elouise Rodriguez	TAMC
Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Sandoval/unanimous

Item 3.2 was pulled by Committee Member Potter and voted separately.

3.1 Approved minutes of the September 9, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Potter/Sandoval/passed

M/S/C

Abstained: Gonzales

Approved the 2025 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings with change in time from 3:00 p.m., to 2:00 p.m., and an alternate location with zoom connection open to the public at 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933.

3.3 Received 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.

3.4 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Sam Sargent, Caltrain Director of Strategy and Policy, presented an update on the partnership on the project to extend Caltrain service from Gilroy into Monterey County. He noted that Caltrain secured \$80 million in state funding for a battery electric hybrid train, designed and built by Stadler US in Salt Lake City, that is expected to begin service in 2028.

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 25% plans, with a funding deadline early next year. He noted the team has started appraisals on parcels that TAMC may need to acquire access to from UPRR.

5. 2025 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Committee reviewed and commented on the draft 2025 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, highlighted the draft legislative program items of interest to the Committee; she noted that the program notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the Agency.

Committee Member Smith requested staff wordsmith priority 15S related to drones to clarify both what is included in "carbon neutral advanced air mobility" as well as how it relates to TAMC's area of expertise.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported staff held the first project development team meeting on October 17 and has scheduled a scoping meeting for November 20 in Pajaro to initiate the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act documentation of the project. This documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for the design update and right of way work.

7. 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, announced the State awarded the Coast Line a \$63 million Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant, including \$25 million to construct the King City Station.

Chair LeBarre noted that this shows the power of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council to secure funding to fully fund phase 1 of the \$42 million King City Station project.

Executive Director Muck noted that other funds to leverage the \$42 million come in part from the Senate Bill 125 funding approved by the Board, noting this shows strong commitment from the State for improvements on the coast.

Committee Member Potter noted that the Rail Summit held in San Diego was a success.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that the next Rail Policy meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2025.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 13, 2025
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

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

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [November 14, 2024 item on KSBW, "Funding awarded for train infrastructure between Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties"](#)
- [November 21, 2024 item on KSBW, "Pajaro community could gain new commuter train stop to Bay Area and beyond"](#)
- [November 21, 2024 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "Monterey-Salinas Transit's SURF! project is hurtling ahead at great expense. Is it worth it?"](#)
- [December 5, 2024 item on KSBW, "Recently closed handcar tours company sues the city of Marina"](#)
- [December 5, 2024 item on KAZU, "A controversial 5-mile busway along Highway 1 is finalizing permits and plans ahead of the presidential transition"](#)
- [December 6, 2024 article in the Carmel Pine Cone, "Handcar company claims retaliation" \(page 22A\)](#)
- [December 12, 2024 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "Monterey-Salinas Transit will be getting less federal money than expected for SURF! busway"](#)
- [December 12, 2024 item in the Monterey County Weekly Squid column, "Cushy Ride"](#)
- [January 3, 2025 article in the San Francisco Chronicle, "Stretch of California railroad tracks at center of bitter legal battle: 'Once it's gone, it's gone'"](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 13, 2025
Subject: Correspondence

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE correspondence.

SUMMARY:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

DISCUSSION:

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [November 21, 2024 email from Gary V. Plomp in re: future of passenger rail at Watsonville Junction in Pajaro](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 13, 2025
Subject: Rail Policy Committee Elections

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD elections for Vice Chair for 2025-26.

SUMMARY:

The bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year. Dave Potter, Vice Chair for 2024, is no longer in elected office, necessitating a new election for Vice Chair for the remainder of his term, 2025-26.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

DISCUSSION:

From the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bylaws, section 12.4:

“A Rail Policy Committee composed of TAMC Board members or their alternates from the following jurisdictions on the rail lines: Cities of Salinas, Marina, Sand City, Seaside, and Monterey, Supervisorial District 1, Supervisorial District 2, Supervisorial District 4, Supervisorial District 5 and two representatives from South Monterey County: either (a) the 3rd District County Supervisor and a voting TAMC Board member from one of the South Monterey County Cities, or (b) two voting TAMC Board members from South Monterey County Cities. In addition, the TAMC Board may appoint one at-large member from the TAMC Board, taking into account interest and expertise in rail issues. The TAMC Chair may appoint annually ex-officio members as needed.

“The Committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership for a two-year term at the end of the February meeting of every even year, beginning in 2008. The Chair may rotate between the County Supervisors and the Cities, and/or between Salinas Valley and the Monterey Peninsula or the existing Chair may be reappointed to a new 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. The Rail Policy Committee advises the Transportation Agency Board on matters related to the establishment of passenger rail service in Monterey County.”

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 13, 2025
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

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

1. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles; and
2. **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors appoint representatives to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

SUMMARY:

The Transportation Agency Board previously appointed Mayor Dave Potter (RPC Vice Chair) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Staff asks the Committee to recommend the Board appoint members to the Council for 2025.

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 Policy Committee met on November 8, 2024 in Monterey. The agenda is **attached online**.

The CRCC working group met virtually on December 6, 2024 and discussed the following:

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

In January 2024, the TAMC Board approved the appointment of Dave Potter as the TAMC representative and Mike LeBarre as the TAMC alternate for a one-year term, and the CRCC Policy Committee selected Mr. Potter as the Chair. The Rail Policy Committee is now asked to recommend appointments to the CRCC Policy Committee for the period ending January 2026. The appointment 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, should they occur in 2025. 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.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. November 13, 2024 article in the Monterey Herald : "\$63M awarded to improve rail"

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [November 8, 2024 CRCC Policy Committee agenda](#)
- [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)

LATEST HEADLINES

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

\$63M awarded to improve rail between Monterey, Santa Barbara counties



Passengers on a train using the Union Pacific Coast Line railroad between Monterey and Santa Barbara counties take in a view of Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc. (James Herrera/Monterey Herald)



By **JAMES HERRERA** | jherrera@montereyherald.com | Monterey Herald

UPDATED: November 13, 2024 at 2:39 PM PST

SALINAS – Grant funding in the amount of \$63 million from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program of the California State Transportation Agency, has been awarded to provide rail improvements along the Union Pacific Coast Line between Monterey and Santa Barbara counties.

The funding was awarded to the Facilitating and Accelerating Service Transformations on the Central Coast Program, or FAST Central Coast Program, according to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

The FAST Central Coast Program is a collaborative effort of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council involving the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, and the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency.

The Coast Line is a railroad line between Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area, roughly along the Pacific Coast. It is the shortest rail route between Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

The grant award provides funding for several coordinated projects along the coast rail line between Monterey County and Santa Barbara County to increase ridership, reliability and train frequency. The coordinated projects include the King City Multi Modal Transportation Center which will establish a new rail station in downtown King City, including railroad siding upgrades and a staging area for National Guard service members connecting between the rail station and Fort Hunter Liggett, crossover and siding improvements near San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles stations that will improve train reliability and operational flexibility for increased train service along the Central Coast, and the Ortega Siding which will be built between Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, enabling a seventh Pacific Surfliner roundtrip and improving overall corridor efficiency for both freight and passenger rail.

The King City multimodal transit project will include a new Amtrak stop near Pearl Street east of First Street, according to the city in a previous report. Passenger service was provided in King City until the mid-1940s.

The design includes the relocation of the Pearl Street crossing to Broadway Street to provide access to the proposed facility. The grant will bring the total funding programmed and/or reserved for the project to approximately \$52,875,000, which is projected to be enough to fund Phase I which is designed to accelerate access to passenger rail service and includes the rail platform, railroad crossing, new rail siding and parking area. Phase II will consist of the station building. The project is currently in the design process and the city is seeking approvals from Union Pacific.

“The funding is a transformative opportunity for King City by offering access, economic opportunity, and critical support for our military,” said Mayor of King City and TAMC Board Member Mike LeBarre in a press release. “We look forward to celebrating this monumental achievement when it’s completed.”

All rail improvements are expected to be completed by 2029 and will be advanced in partnership with the California Department of Transportation in a manner consistent with the network vision established in the State Rail Plan and included in ongoing Corridor Identification and Development Program efforts being advanced along the Central Coast.

A sizeable portion of the matching funds for this project is provided by Senate Bill 125 funding, with over \$14 million committed to deliver this suite of projects.

The State of California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program was created to fund transformative capital improvements that modernize California's intercity rail, bus, ferry and rail transit systems to achieve the following policy objectives including reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, expand and improve transit service to increase ridership, integrate the rail service of the state's various rail operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system and improve transit safety.

More than \$4.8 billion has been invested since 2023 to transit and passenger rail projects from competitive Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grants.

Originally Published: November 13, 2024 at 2:34 PM PST

2024 > November > 13

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 13, 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 Scoping Workshop on November 20, 2024 as well as meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, stakeholders on the design options and Caltrans staff to discuss the Corridor ID funding program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work will begin 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. The activities following the most recent Rail Policy Committee meeting are as follows:

November 1-December 6, 2024	Notice of Preparation Scoping Period
November 20, 2024	Scoping Workshop at Pajaro Middle School
December 18, 2024	Consultant Team Site Inspection

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

- November 13, 2024: North Monterey County Safe Routes to Schools Steering Committee

Meeting

- November 15, 2024: Pajaro Residents Group Meeting
- December 11, 2024: Corridor ID Coordination Kick-Off Meeting with Federal Railroad Administration

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 13, 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.

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. TAMC staff 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS: