



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

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 7, 2022

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

REMOTE CONFERENCING ONLY

There will be NO physical location of the meeting.

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

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

Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

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 COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA.

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 three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the 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 Committee before the meeting.

3. BEGINNING OF 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 minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of September 12, 2022.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the September 12, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 21st Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

- Wright

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages Rail Policy Committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 2, 2022. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 25, 2023 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE and COMMENT on draft 2023 Legislative Program.

- 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.

5. RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson/Zeller

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in September

include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

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

- Watson/Guther

Progress since the last update to this Committee in September includes a visit to Sacramento and a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system.

7. **APPROVE** the 2023 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings and **PROVIDE DIRECTION** to staff related to the potential to have hybrid meetings starting in March 2023.

- Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2023 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. Staff expects to resume in-person meetings, possibly with a hybrid option, starting in March 2023.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.
9. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, January 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Important Meeting Information

Remote Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhanced State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allowed local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. That order expired on September 30, 2021. Governor Newsom has now signed AB 361, and the TAMC Board of Directors approved a resolution to enact AB 361 on September 22, 2021. This legislation permits teleconferencing for Brown Act meetings

during a state of emergency. Thus, TAMC meetings will convene remotely, until further notice. For remote meetings, the public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during remote meetings. 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@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

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
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1.** No correspondence this agenda.
- C 2.** **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.
- C 3.** **RECEIVE** reports attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of September 12, 2022.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the September 12, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft September RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of September 12, 2022

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22	APR 22	MAY 22	JUN 22	JUL 22	AUG 22	SEP 22
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	A	N	P(A)	A
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P	P(A)		P	P(A)	P(A)	N	P	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave, C. Courtney)	P(A)	E	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	P(A)	E	A	A	P	L	A	A	E	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	A	P	T	P	P	P	L	P	A	T	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	I	A	A	P	E	P	P	I	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder, K. Cruz)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	G	P	P	A		P	P	G	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	A	P		A	P	A		A	P		P	A
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	A	E		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
J. Xiao, Caltrans District 5	P	A		A	A	A		P	P		P	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)	P(A)	E		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		A	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director	P	P		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P	P		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P	P		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P	P		P	P	P		P	P		P	P
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	A	P		P	P	P		P	A		P	P

A. Guther Assis. Transp. Planner	-	P		P	P	P		P	E		P	P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A	A		A	A	A		A	A		P	A
J. Strause Transportation Planner	-	-		-	-	-		-	-		P	A

P = Present A = Absent P(A) = alternate present E = Excused

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sam Sargent	Caltrain	Guy Preston	SCCRTC
Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC	Paul Guirguis	Caltrans
Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas	Alex Lopez	Caltrans
Brad Tarp	Public	Tarah Brady	Caltrans

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter / Craig /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the Augst 1, 2022 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RAIL LINE UPDATE

The Committee received an update from Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on their rail corridor studies.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, introduced Guy Preston, Executive Director, and Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner, from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Mr. Preston reported that in 2016, the Measure D local transportation sales tax measure was passed, which included 8% for rail corridor preservation and analysis of options, and 17% for active transportation, including the 32-mile Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in the rail right-of-way. Mr. Preston noted that the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis completed in 2021 concluded that electric passenger rail was the best option for the rail corridor. Ms. Goodman noted that a request for proposals is out now for consultants to prepare conceptual plans and environmental review of the proposed projects in the rail corridor.

Chair LeBarre asked about a park-and-ride lot in the Pajaro, Watsonville area to enable passengers to park and ride the rail into Santa Cruz. Brianna Goodman replied that the plan envisions a park and ride lot at each end of the corridor.

Committee Member Potter noted that a connection to the Monterey Branch Line would be great for passengers traveling to Santa Cruz.

5. SALINAS RAIL: CALTRAIN OPERATIONS DISCUSSIONS

The Committee received an update from Caltrain on next steps in the operations discussions for the Salinas Rail extension project.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, introduced Sam Sargent, Caltrain Director of Strategy and Policy, who presented an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project. He noted that TAMC staff and Caltrain staff have been holding regular meetings to discuss the strategy for implementing operations on the corridor, noting the next step is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Committee Member Craig thanked Mr. Sargent for his work to further the project to extend train service to Salinas and noted that the City of Salinas has invested in the downtown area. Mr. Sargent replied that he is planning a visit to Salinas soon.

Executive Director Todd Muck thanked Sam Sargent for attending the meeting and noted that he will present a similar presentation at the September Board meeting. Mr. Muck noted that the team is building a great partnership and an MOU is a good starting point for getting service implemented in Monterey County.

Chair LeBarre asked about the funding available for zero-emission trains, recognizing the need for diesel service in the near term until those new trains are available. Mr. Sargent noted that both state and federal funding is becoming available for zero-emission train equipment.

6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming and Project Delivery, reported that the City Salinas City Council and TAMC Board approved the revised transfer agreements in August. He noted that Transportation Agency staff have submitted a request for approval of the land transfer to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for consideration at their October 12, 2022, meeting. Mr. Zeller reported that negotiations for the acquisition of properties needed for the Salinas layover facility (Package 2) and Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are ongoing.

Brad Tarp, member of public, asked about the long timeframe for the City to approve a lot line adjustment. Mr. Zeller replied that he can reach out to the City of Salinas staff to facilitate the process; he noted that once the final order of condemnation is approved by the court, the new

lot lines will be automatically generated. Committee Member Craig asked that staff provide Mr. Tarp with her contact information if she can assist staff in resolving this issue.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that HDR completed the 100% plans for packages 2 and 3 and distributed them to our partner stakeholder agencies on September 1.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro station Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) application was unsuccessful. She noted that staff met with Caltrans recently and they informed us adding a capitol component to the application might improve the project ranking. Ms. Guther noted that Agency staff will continue to look for other funding sources for the project.

6. 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, Assistant Transportation Planner, invited Committee Members to a field trip to the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) on October 25, 2022. She noted that the trip would include a tour of their operating center and a train ride.

Committee Alternate Anderson and Committee Member Craig asked to arrange a separate trip for those who cannot make it on Tuesdays, which presents a conflict with Board of Supervisors and many city council meetings.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that on August 19 the Policy Committee met to discuss legislative items and hear updates from partner agencies, including from Caltrans about the intercity bus plan and freight plan. In conclusion, Ms. Watson noted that the City of King City train station was not awarded a highly competitive federal grant, but that the team would seek alternate funding for the project.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit provided an update on public outreach efforts for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE the call for nominations for the 21st Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

SUMMARY:

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages Rail Policy Committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 2, 2022. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 25, 2023 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County would like to show 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, programs or projects. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of smart commute options as alternatives to driving alone through the Go831 Smart Commute Program.

Committee members are encouraged to distribute nomination forms and nominate projects, groups or individuals to be recognized for their contributions to transportation in Monterey County.

The nomination form is attached to this staff report and is also available on the Transportation Agency website (tamcmonterey.org). 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 2, 2022. The Transportation Agency Executive Committee will select the awards recipients at its January meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Transportation Excellence Awards Nomination Form



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 2, 2022** 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 7, 2022
Subject: **2023 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2023 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 2023 legislative program (**attached**) continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2023 legislative session.

Items of particular interest to this Committee include:

State:

- 2S. Pursue funding for passenger rail projects.
- 7S. Support new state-supported passenger rail on the Coast Route.

Federal:

- 1F(3). Coordinate with military installations to seek funding for projects with a nexus to those facilities.
- 1F(4). Support MST application for funding for the SURF! project.
- 4F. Support streamlining of federal rail funding.
- 5F. Support federal funding for new passenger rail on the Coast Route.
- 6F. Support adequate funding for Amtrak.

The Executive Committee discussed this draft legislative program on October 5, 2022, and on October 26, 2022, 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 25, 2023 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft 2023 Legislative Program

2023~~2~~ Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S. Preserve funding for [all modes of](#) transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting [for infrastructure needs](#). [Advocating for proportionality on the application of vehicle miles traveled metrics in comparison to larger metro areas in the state, particularly for completing multi-modal corridors or highway projects in less densely populated or disadvantaged areas of the county, to increase safety for commuters, enhance routes needed for evacuation from climate events, goods movement, and tourism travel.](#)
- 2S. [Leverage Measure X funds and partner with state agencies to p](#)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.
- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, such as via funding reduced transit fares, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S. Support funding for [zero-emission](#) alternative 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](#), and incentives for electric bike and vehicle purchases.
- 5S. Explore replacement funding mechanisms 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.
- 6S. 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.

- 7S. Support the use of State rail funding to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 8S. 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
- 9S. Support legislation that increases roadway safety by implementing Vision Zero strategies and improving driver safety training.
- 10S. Support ~~legislation to devote more~~sustainable funding ~~to for~~ the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- 11S. Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- ~~12S. Coordinate with the Monterey Salinas Transit District (MST) to update Transportation Development Act (TDA) law.~~
- 13S.12S. 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.13S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 15S.14S. 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.
- 16S.15S. 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.

2023~~2~~ Legislative Program

Federal Priorities

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds ~~in the multimodal transportation authorization bill:~~
- ~~1. Support an adequate level of funding for Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) ~~through advocacy on a new transportation bill~~ with appropriations sufficient to ensure immediate access to funding.~~
 - ~~2. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.~~
 - ~~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.~~
 - ~~4. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.~~
 - ~~5. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding, including cash flow options for small and rural grantees.~~
 - 6.2. Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation priorities.
 - 7.3. Coordinate with regional military installations ~~in Monterey County~~ to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to operations at those installations.
 - 8.4. Support MST application for federal funding for the SURF! Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
 - 9.5. Support applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Discretionary Grant program for projects on the California Central Coast.

~~10. Support funding for infrastructure projects that provide resiliency for disaster preparedness and climate change impacts, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure or sea level rise adaptive projects.~~

- 2F.** 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.
- 3F.** 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.
- 4F.** 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.
- 4F.5F.** Support the use of Federal rail funding to implement new passenger rail service on the Coast Route.
- 5F.6F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 6F.7F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Monterey County Rail Extension project, Phase 1, Salinas Kick Start project (the Salinas station and improvements in Santa Clara County), is estimated at \$81 million. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 1, known as the Kick Start Project, includes Salinas train station circulation improvements, a train layover facility in Salinas, and track improvements at the Gilroy station and between Salinas and Gilroy. The Kick Start Project has wrapped up construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Construction of Package 1: Salinas Station Improvements

TAMC staff is coordinating with Caltrans and the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City, pursuant to the adopted Memorandum of Understanding. The land transfer must be approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to empower the City and TAMC to approve transfer agreements. TAMC originally approved a land transfer agreement on September 22, 2021 and the City Council approved it on October 26, 2021. After TAMC and Salinas approved the transfer agreement, CTC staff requested that references to the City's future hypothetical development on the parcels be removed from the agreement. This change was made to the agreement and TAMC Board and the City of Salinas approved the revised agreement in August 2022. After the revised agreement was submitted to the California Transportation Commission, their legal counsel requested that additional language be added to the agreement that explicitly assigns the obligations of the funding agreements between TAMC and Caltrans to the City of Salinas. This further change has been made and the revised

agreement is scheduled for Board consideration at the October 26, 2022 meeting. With this change, CTC staff has indicated that they will be ready to bring approval of the property transfer forward for consideration at the December 7, 2022 California Transportation Commission meeting.

Property Acquisition for Package 2: Salinas Layover Facility

On December 4, 2019, the Transportation Agency Board approved Resolutions of Necessity on portions of four parcels and one full parcel needed for the Salinas layover facility. TAMC staff continues to oversee the right-of-way special counsel from Burke, Williams, & Sorensen to further negotiations and finalize the remaining acquisitions in Salinas, and the team of Bender Rosenthal and Nossaman for Union Pacific property access negotiations.

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

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and is now gathering stakeholder input on those plans.

The final design team held the following meetings to further the project's design:

- Amtrak - October 13
- Caltrain and Caltrans - September 29, October 20
- Gilroy and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) - September 22, October 18
- Salinas - September 21



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
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 to this Committee in September includes a visit to Sacramento and a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system.

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 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.

Staff organized a field trip for the Policy Committee to visit Sacramento and the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART, see **web attachment**) corridor in October. Staff will provide a verbal update on the trip at the meeting.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [SMART rail](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: 2023 RPC Meeting Schedule

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the 2023 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings and **PROVIDE DIRECTION** to staff related to the potential to have hybrid meetings starting in March 2023.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2023 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. Staff expects to resume in-person meetings, possibly with a hybrid option, starting in March 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

DISCUSSION:

Please mark your calendars for the 2023 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 9*
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5
- August 7
- September 11*
- October 2
- November 6

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 9, to avoid conflicts with extended winter holiday schedules, and the September meeting will be on September 11, since the first Monday is Labor Day. 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.

Until February 28, 2023, the meetings will continue to be held via remote conferencing under the Governor's declared state of emergency, which is expected to be lifted on February 28, 2023. Starting in March 2023, the meetings will be held at the TAMC conference room at 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, or other location to be determined in advance of each meeting

(the agenda will specify).

If necessary, it will be possible to make the in-person meetings accessible for remote participation, following the revised Brown Act rules for remote participation, which requires at least a quorum to attend in person. Committee members needing to participate remotely must get prior approval from the Committee, unless timing makes that impossible, in which case the authorization can occur at the meeting, citing "emergency circumstances." The statute defines "emergency circumstances" as "a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person." In addition, Committee Member remote participation is limited to 20% of the meetings, meaning no more than 2 Committee meetings, per year.

Staff will present an update and request input from the Committee at the meeting, whether it may be desirable to make the meetings remotely accessible throughout the year, even upon the resumption of in-person meetings.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- September 1, 2022 news report on KSBW: [Monterey-Salinas Transit seeks community input on new 'SURF!' bus transit project](#)
- September 12, 2022 Capitol Corridor rider alert: [Potential Railroad Strike May Affect Capitol Corridor Service 9/15/22](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: November 7, 2022
Subject: **Reports**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Capitol Corridor monthly report for July 2022](#)
- [Capitol Corridor monthly report for August 2022](#)