

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of February 1, 2021

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20	JUL 20	AUG 20	SEP 20	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21	FEB 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	P(A)	C	-	-	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	N	P(A)	-	P(A)	E
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave, C. Courtney)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	E	E	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	P	L	P	P	E	-	L	-	-	-	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	P	P	L	P	P	T	E	L	P	P	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	E	P	P	I	P	E	P	P	P	E
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	D	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	-	P		P	P	G	P		-	-	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	-		P	P		P		-	P	-	P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	-	E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		P	-		-		-	-		P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)		-	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	E		P	P		P		P	P	P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	P		P	P		P		-	P	P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	E	P		E	P		P		P	-	P	P
M. Jacobsen, Transportation Planner	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P	P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Michelle Overmeyer	MST	Grant Leonard	North County Resident
Shannon Simonds	Caltrans HQ	Michael Cornfield	Deutsche Bahn
Tarah Brady	Caltrans HQ	Barry Scott	
Alan Miller	Caltrans HQ	Lori Wesolek	
Oscar Antillon	City of Soledad	Jeffrey Mihalik	
Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Smith/Oglesby /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 11, 2021 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SURF! BUSWAY UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project along the Monterey Branch Line from Marina to Sand City.

Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner, reported that Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in November 2019. Ms. Jacobsen stated that the project completed 15% design and the team is now working toward 35% design. She noted that in partnership with Monterey Salinas Transit (MST), TAMC is seeking public input on the “SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project” via an online survey, and that responses are due February 19, 2021. The survey was released in both Spanish and English.

Michelle Overmeyer, MST, reported that MST is coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to apply for a Capital Investment Grant, a discretionary grant program to support transit capital investments including busway/bus rapid transit. The project has been accepted into the Project Development phase of FTA’s Capital Investment Grants program.

Committee Chair LeBarre congratulated Monterey-Salinas Transit for the contactless fare system and noted a recent Bloomberg article included a good description of system and the population that MST serves.

Committee member Medina Dirksen stated that she did not receive the survey. Theresa Wright, Public Outreach Coordinator, replied that the survey was shared via TAMC Facebook. She noted that she would appreciate for everyone's help in sharing the post.

Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit, reported that MST had received twenty-nine survey responses as of the previous week. She noted that MST posted the survey on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, NextDoor, and on the Transit Real time application, and that MST wants to hear from anyone that might ride the SURF! bus.

5. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that 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. The Kick Start Project is proceeding with construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the construction team is wrapping up construction on Package 1. She noted that TAMC celebrated with a ribbon-cutting on January 15 at noon that can be viewed on Facebook and the TAMC website. Staff is coordinating with the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on properties. He noted that negotiations are reaching settlements on four out of five parcels.

Ms. Watson reported that design meetings are going well and that negotiations with Caltrans, Caltrain and Union Pacific Railroad are moving along.

Shannon Simonds, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation, presented an update on the strategic service deployment playbook.

6. RPC MEETING TIME

M/S/C Smith/Cruz/unanimous

The Committee voted to temporarily change the RPC meeting time to 2:00 p.m. and to reconsider the start time at the June 2021 meeting.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that a new recurring meeting has been set by Supervisor Askew for every Monday at 3:00 p.m. for all the County's Mayors. The meeting creates a conflict for five Rail Policy Committee members. To ensure a quorum for the Committee, one option is for those members to send their alternates to the RPC meeting. Mayor Craig has asked the Committee to consider a temporary rescheduling of the RPC meeting to 2:00 p.m. start meeting time.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.