



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, August 3, 2020

****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 June 1, 2020.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the June 1, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in June include progress on construction of Package 1, Salinas train station access and circulation improvements, and meetings related to future rail operations.

5. RECEIVE update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

- Watson

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in June includes completion of a draft future service vision memo.

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

- Watson

Progress since the last update to this Committee in May includes meetings of the policy and working groups.

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

8. ADJOURN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, September 14, 2020 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 enhances 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 allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. 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 the meeting. 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 Thursday 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. RECEIVE** correspondence attached online.
- C 2. RECEIVE** reports attached online.
- C 3. RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
Subject: **Draft June RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of June 1, 2020.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the June 1, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft June RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of June 1, 2020

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	JUL 19	AUG 19	SEP 19	OCT 19	NOV 19	DEC 19	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	C	-	-
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)		E	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	M	P(A) TC	C	-	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	E	P	L	P	-	E	P	P	P	L	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	T	P	L	-	-	T	P	P	P	L	P	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	I	P	E	P	P	I	P	P	P	E	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	N	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	G	P		-	P	G	P	-	P		P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)		-		P	P		-	P	-		P	P
D. Potter, At Large Member		P		E	E		P	P	P		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)		P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5		-		-	-		-	-	-		P	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		-	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P		P	E		E	P	E		P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director		P		P	P		P	P	P		P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner		P		P	P		P	P	P		P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner		P		P	P		P	P	P		P	P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator		-		E	P		-	-	P		P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P		P	P		P	P	P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		E		P	E		P	E	P		E	P
Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner				P	P			P	P		P	P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Cook	TAMC staff	Alan Miller	Caltrans
Katherine Hansen	County Counsel	Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Doug Yount	Shea Homes		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Davis/ Smith/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 4, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CENTRAL COAST HIGHWAY 1 ELKHORN SLOUGH RESILIENCY STUDY

The Committee received a presentation and provided comments on the draft Central Coast Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Heather Adamson, Director of Planning, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, who presented on the draft Central Coast Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Study. Ms. Adamson reported that transportation corridors through Elkhorn Slough will face significant challenges under conditions of climate change and sea level rise. Ms. Adamson noted that flood projection shows inundation of the Moss Landing Harbor, Highway 1, rail corridor and adjacent areas. She noted that without action we will lose 50% of marsh and mudflat and transportation will be severely impacted. The study presents a detailed understanding of the risks and options for adaptation in this critical stretch of Highway 1 and the railway corridor, as well as an adaptation management strategy to ensure updated scientific information is integrated into the project planning process.

In conclusion, Ms. Adamson noted that the study emphasizes the importance of starting planning for Highway 1 and railway adaptation in the early to mid-2030s and implementing a course of action well before sea levels are predicted inundate the corridor in mid-to late-21st century. The draft study was released for review on May 12, 2020. The close of the public review period is June 11, 2020.

Committee Alternate Stratton thanked Heather for the thorough yet succinct presentation and mentioned that this issue has been on District 2's top transportation concern list for the past 5 years.

5. FORD ORD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Committee received an update on Agency activities related to property management and development opportunities for 12.1 acres of Agency land on the former Fort Ord.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, introduced Jim Cook, Retired Annuitant, who reported that Agency staff have implemented a variety of actions to enhance management of the property on the former Ford Ord and explore future development potential.

Committee Member Smith asked about the plans for development adjacent to TAMC property. Doug Yount, Shea Homes, replied that Phase 2 of The Dunes development, which largely surrounds the TAMC property, has been approved and is now moving forward. It was noted that the timeframe for the development of the adjacent City of Marina Arts District is uncertain.

Committee Alternate Askew spoke in support of demolition of the buildings. She also noted that the site will have significant development potential based on high visibility from Highway 1 and asked what potential development is contemplated.

Executive Director Debbie Hale responded that Agency staff will explore a variety of land use options. Mr. Cook noted that the designation of the property is “mixed use” in the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan but it is designated for “public facility” use in the University Villages specific plan. Ms. Hale also noted that TAMC’s goals, as discussed in past Committee visioning sessions, are to capitalize on future transportation opportunities while raising funding to cover costs of such transportation projects. She stated that TAMC would coordinate with the City of Marina, the Dunes developers, and the Marina Coast Water District to ensure their plans support future development of the TAMC property.

Committee Member Delgado complimented TAMC staff for the recent cleanup of the Monterey Branch Line corridor.

6. 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 project in Fall 2019. She noted that MST and TAMC staff continue to meet with stakeholders. The project team has generally received good input and positive feedback from engaged stakeholders. The team is investigating alternatives to an 8th Street multimodal stop. One alternative is at 5th Street, where both MST and TAMC have properties. In conclusion, Ms. Jacobsen noted that the project team is planning to institute a virtual public outreach program. As part of the outreach, the project team is developing video simulations.

Lisa Rheinheimer, MST, noted that State Parks concerned about the bus stop on 8th street due to impacts to sensitive habitat and their campground project. MST is considering an alternative that might be better for a potential transit center through 5th Street on MST’s

property. She noted that both the 5th Street and the 8th Street stations would be evaluated in the environmental review. She noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic has made the team rethink public engagement strategies. They are planning on virtual public outreach meetings.

Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, noted that the team still hopes to arrange for an in-person tour of the Branch Line for interested RPC members when the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

Committee Member Delgado asked about the cost implications if the busway were to pave over the tracks, for both the busway and the planned eventual light rail service. Staff responded that the team would consider the cost aspects in the engineering study.

7. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported construction team continues to make progress constructing the Lincoln Avenue Extension and parking improvements. Ms. Williamson noted that the new traffic signals at W Market and Lincoln Avenue are on timers until signal loop detectors are installed. Stage 1 improvements (Lincoln Avenue Extension and parking improvements) are expected to be completed on June 8, 2020, and the construction team expects to complete stage 2 (Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza) before October 2020. TAMC staff will coordinate a ribbon cutting ceremony in the fall.

Committee Member Davis expressed concerns that the City of Salinas is working on cleaning up homeless encampments along the rail line but is having trouble coordinating with Union Pacific. Executive Director Hale asked to be included if the City has future meetings with Union Pacific representatives.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to negotiate for the acquisition of five parcels in Salinas for the train layover facility.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff continues to work with Caltrain and is reviewing the draft High-Speed Rail environmental documents, for which comments are due June 23.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, announced that there is no July meeting and the next Committee meeting is on August 3, 2020. She also noted that the Rail Network Integration Study survey is now live and asked Committee Members to help spread the word.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
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 June include progress on construction of Package 1, Salinas train station access and circulation improvements, and meetings related to future rail operations.

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.

Package 1 is under construction by MPE Engineering for an original contract amount of \$7,487,989 with a contingency fund of \$1,123,200. On May 21, TAMC approved the tenth construction change order for additional roadway excavation for \$22,080. On June 25, TAMC approved the eleventh change order related to a relocated bioretention area near the First Mayor's House for \$29,610.99. Approved change orders now total \$499,233.97 or 44% of the contingency fund approved by the Board.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project extends 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 is proceeding with construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and track improvements (Package 3) are ready for final design, pending comments from Union Pacific Railroad.

Package 1: Salinas Station Improvements

TAMC hired Monterey Peninsula Engineering (MPE) for construction of Package 1, MNS Engineers as Construction Managers on the project, and HDR Engineering to provide design support during construction. In June and July 2020, the construction team completed construction of the Lincoln Avenue Extension and associated parking improvements (stage 1) and initiated work on stage 2, Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza. The construction work is now 66% complete per the amended budget and 74% percent complete per the schedule. The team currently anticipates

completion of the project in October.

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 consulting team of AR/WS and Meyers Nave to further negotiations and finalize the acquisitions.

TAMC executed the contract for final design of Packages 2 and 3 on June 24 upon approval of the contract by the Independent Office of Audits and Investigations and after the California Transportation Commission approved the funding transfer. The team held the kick-off meeting on July 15.

Package 3: Gilroy Station & Track Improvements, Operations Scenarios

TAMC submitted comments on the High-Speed Rail Environmental Impact Report/ Study on June 19 related to the interplay between the planned track improvements as part of the Salinas Rail project at the Gilroy station and the proposed downtown High-Speed Rail station track alignments.

On July 13, staff participated in a Caltrain Business Plan working group meeting (see **web attachments 1-2**), which described how the business plan was pivoting to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and a renewed focus on equity issues. Caltrain was forced to cut service dramatically in the face of a steep ridership decline in March - they went from 92 to 42 trains. Ridership has rebounded somewhat since the beginning of the shelter-in-place orders and Caltrain is now operating 70 trains. The pandemic continues to cause significant uncertainties when it comes to funding for operations or capital improvements. Caltrain is still working to determine whether they will put a regional sales tax measure on the November 2020 ballot.

On July 14, staff participated in the Northern California Rail Working Group meeting, which covered the state's response to COVID-19 impacts on rail operations statewide, the 2022 state rail plan (see **web attachment 3**), network integration study updates, fleet strategies and the integrated ticketing program. MST signed up to be a test case for the integrated ticketing program (see **web attachment 4**).

Meanwhile, the Capitol Corridor South Bay Connect project (see **web attachment 5**) would relocate the Capitol Corridor passenger rail service between Oakland and San Jose for a shorter, more direct route. Comments on the project will be accepted until August 13, 2020.

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

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Caltrain COVID-19 Recovery Planning presentation, July 9, 2020](#)
2. [Draft Caltrain Framework for Equity, Connectivity, Recovery & Growth](#)
3. [Caltrans 2022 State Rail Plan briefing](#)
4. [MST announces a new partnership with Caltrans, Visa introducing contactless fare payment demonstration](#)
5. [Capitol Corridor South Bay Connect project](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
Subject: Rail Network Integration Study Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

SUMMARY:

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in June includes completion of a draft future service vision memo.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The study has a budget of \$500,000, funded out of the state Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program: \$350,000 for consultant costs and \$150,000 for staff and in-house costs.

DISCUSSION:

The study focuses on determining the optimal options for: rail connectivity and operations, equipment needs, governance, and community benefits for service between Monterey County and Santa Clara County, Monterey and Santa Cruz, and the Coast Rail Corridor. This study will also assist TAMC by providing the data needed to prepare grant applications for funding new stations at Pajaro/Watsonville, Castroville, Soledad and King City.

The public survey was published on June 2, 2020 and closes on September 15, 2020. As of July 9, 426 people have taken the survey, primarily Monterey Peninsula residents, indicating strong support for the rail concepts presented by the survey and a high tolerance for longer rail trip times as compared to the parallel drive. Staff encourages RPC members to take the survey and to circulate the survey to their constituents - the link is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tamcrail>.

Online as a **web attachment** is the draft future service vision memo. The team will present an update on work completed to date and solicit input on the future vision memo at the meeting.

The revised project schedule (**web attachment**) shows when the Committee can expect to review the following deliverables:

- October 2020 RPC:
 - Final Governance & Operations Memo
 - Draft Cost Estimate Memo
 - Draft Ridership Results Memo
 - Draft Fleet Strategies Memo

- November 2020 RPC:
 - Final Cost Estimate Memo
 - Final Fleet Strategies Memo
 - Final Grant Strategy Memo
- January 2021 RPC:
 - Final Ridership Results Memo
 - Draft Funding and Finance Strategies Memo
- February 2021 RPC:
 - Final Funding and Finance Strategies Memo
 - Final Benefits Assessment Memo
- April 2021 RPC:
 - Draft Network Integration Study
- June 2021 RPC:
 - Final Network Integration Study

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Draft future service vision memo](#)
- [Updated project schedule](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
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 May includes meetings of the policy and working groups.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail service project construction and operation costs are still under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council 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.

On June 19, the working group held a meeting to discuss the following issues:

- Legislative issues: a curtailed legislative session limits the number of bills moving forward.
- COVID-19 impacts on rail service at San Luis Obispo: they now have only one round trip southward on the Pacific Surfliner, which experienced a 97% ridership loss in the spring due to the pandemic.
- Caltrans priorities:
 - Focusing the intercity rail budget on essential services and emergency preparedness/ pandemic response;
 - Planning has begun for the next rail plan due March 2022;
 - Federal funding for rail & bus connections;
 - The California Integrated Travel Project (CAL-ITP) touchless payment system is now gearing up for demo projects and will hold a virtual event mid-September; and
 - Positive Train Control (PTC) project is pending discussions with Union Pacific railroad.

On July 17, the CRCC Policy group held a meeting to discuss the status of the service implementation plan and the passenger rail improvement study for the central coast rail corridor. The agenda is online as a **web attachment**.

Policy Committee members and staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [July 17, 2020 Policy Committee agenda](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
Subject: Correspondence

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE correspondence attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [June 19, 2020 letter to Brian Kelly, California High-Speed Rail Authority, re: Comments on the San Jose to Merced Draft Environmental Documents](#)
- [June 22, 2020 letter from the City of Gilroy to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, re: City of Gilroy Comments on Draft EIR/EIS for the San Jose-Merced Section of the California High-Speed Rail Project](#)
- [June 29, 2020 document transmitted via Mayor Delgado from Dennis Lowery entitled "Passenger Train Private/Public Partnership Introduction"](#)
- [July 13, 2020 letter to Dennis Lowery and Michael Groves in re: Monterey Branch Line Rail Service Unsolicited Proposal](#)
- [July 17, 2020 email from Dennis Lowery to Mayor Delgado](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
Subject: **Reports**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Caltrain Updates: Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: August 3, 2020
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Summer 2020 article in the Rail Users Network Newsletter, "California Central Coast a whirl of passenger rail activity"](#)
- [June 23, 2020 article in Huffington Post, "It's time for America to get serious about fixing the trains: Instead of spending billions to bail out airlines, advocates argue for a more carbon-friendly pandemic investment: railroad travel"](#)
- [June 25, 2020 article in Progressive Railroading News, "Poll: Bay Area voters support dedicated funding for Caltrain"](#)
- [June 25, 2020 article in Mass Transit, "Caltrain poll reveals voters continue to support dedicated funding for the agency: The poll was conducted as Caltrain considers moving forward with a ballot measure that would provide a dedicated revenue source that would address COVID-related financial impacts"](#)
- [June 29, 2020 item in Coast Connect newsletter, "Action Alert: Take the Monterey Bay Passenger Rail Survey"](#)
- [June 30, 2020 article in Mass Transit, "Caltrain ridership increases as Bay Area returns to work: The agency estimates its current ridership has more than doubled from its lowest point of 1,500 riders"](#)
- [June 16, 2020 article in the San Jose Mercury News, "Could Caltrain shut down? Lot of variables still in play: SF Board of Supervisors fails to consider new sales tax proposal to help fund the Peninsula railroad"](#)
- [June 16, 2020 article in the San Francisco Chronicle, "Push to save Caltrain gets a second chance. SF supervisor says he'll fight for tax measure"](#)