

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of May 1, 2017

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	APR 16	MAY 16	JUNE 16	AUG 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	C	C	E	-	E	P(A)	P(A)	P	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	A	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	N	N	P(A)	P(A)	E	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	-
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	C	C	P(A)	P	P	P	P(A)	E	C	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	E	E	P	P	-	P(A)	P	P	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	L	L	P(A)	E	E	-	P	E	L	P
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	L	L	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	E	L	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	E	E	P	P	P	P	-	P	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	D	D	P(A)	P	P	P	P	P	D	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)			E	P	P	E	P	P		-
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)			-	-	P	P	P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)			P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5			-	-	P	E	-	-		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, L. Rheinheimer)			P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)			-	-	P	-	-	-		-
STAFF										
D. Hale, Exec. Director			P	P	E	P	E	P		E
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director			P	P	P	P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner			P	P	P	P	P	P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner			P	P	P	P	P	P		P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer			P	-	-	-	-	-		-
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner			P	P	P	P	P	P		P
A. Green, Associate Trans. Planner			-	-	-	-	-	P		-
T. Wright Community Outreach Coordinator			-	-	-	-	-	P		P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Andy Cook Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation
Cheryl Ku Monterey County Resource Management Agency
Don Reynolds City of Salinas

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/LeBarre /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the March 6, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2018 CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN

The Committee received a presentation on the 2018 California State Rail Plan.

Andy Cook, Chief, Rail Planning Branch, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation, reported that Caltrans will soon publish the draft 2018 California State Rail Plan for public review. He reported that the State Rail Plan serves as a guide for state investment in passenger rail service. He noted that the plan includes separate sections for passenger and freight rail, including a near-term four-year program of projects, a 10-year interim program, and long-term vision with a 2040 horizon year. The passenger component of the plan is based on a proposed integrated network to provide “Core Services” with coordinated schedules and efficient transfers providing access to and supporting convenient intercity rail travel.

Mr. Cook reported that the Salinas Rail Extension project is included in the 2022 near-term program of projects. He noted that the project will serve as a pilot project for a new model of service where the State will make access payments to Union Pacific for use of the rail line. Coast corridor station developments at Pajaro/Watsonville, Soledad and King City are also included in the near-term scenario. Additional trips to and from Salinas, and train service between Salinas and San Luis Obispo are included in the 2027 interim program of projects. Hourly service to Salinas and service to Pajaro/Watsonville and Castroville are included in the long-term 2040 scenario.

Committee member LeBarre said that train service should be both cost and time competitive. He asked when cities should start coordinating on station development plans. Mr. Cook said that now is a good time to begin coordinating with TAMC, and aim to complete stations by 2022.

Committee member Smith asked if the State Rail Plan identifies the location in Monterey where train service would stop. Mr. Cook said the State Rail Plan will be neutral about operators and equipment, and that the State would support the local plans for any future rail stations in Monterey.

Committee Member Delgado asked which timeframe service in Monterey is identified in the State Rail Plan. Mr. Cook said rail service on the Monterey Branch line is included in the long-term scenario given funding constraints, but that the rail plan supports bus investments in the near term.

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas, asked if the operator for the Salinas Kick Start is identified in the plan. Mr. Cook said the State strategy in the near term is to work with Caltrain for weekday commute hour service, and with Capitol Corridor for weekend service.

Mr. Harvath said that when he was State Assembly Member, Simón Salinas sponsored AB 765, to allow MST to serve as an Amtrak thruway connector. He noted that MST is now also a Greyhound connector service. Mr. Harvath asked if the State Legislature has to approve the State Rail Plan. Mr. Cook said the State Legislature receives the Rail Plan but does not have to vote on it.

5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on March 6, 2017, includes a meeting with Salinas staff, a presentation to the Salinas Chamber of Commerce on the project, the California Passenger Rail Summit, and progress in the acquisition of properties in Salinas.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that escrow will close on the 26 West Market Street property soon. He reported that TAMC is in the process of acquiring the remaining 6 properties, and TAMC is currently planning to demolish existing buildings in the fall.

Committee alternate Stratton suggested demolition of the former credit union building in June to avoid more controversy, and asked that demolition be discussed during the next Executive Committee meeting. Committee member Smith agreed. Committee alternate Anderson abstained from that recommendation.

Committee member LeBarre suggested selling off pieces of the soon-to-be demolished buildings and donating the proceeds to homeless service providers.

Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, said staff is analyzing the procurement procedures for property demolition.

6. COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update of the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner reported that the progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on March 6, 2017, includes a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on March 10 and a Policy Committee meeting on April 7, 2017, submittal of legislative language permitting the extension of rail services, and progress on the federal environmental document.

Chair Craig reported that both she and Ms. Watson were in Sacramento on April 25 to meet with legislators and advocate for the Salinas Rail Extension project. Chair Craig reported that they met with Chad Edison, Deputy Secretary of Rail, who was enthusiastic about the Salinas Rail Extension project and offered creative service operator ideas to get rail service to Salinas. Ms. Watson noted that Mr. Edison encouraged TAMC to apply for State cap and trade funds as the next round will be a 5-year program of projects. Ms. Watson reported that the Coast Corridor planned stops in Pajaro, Soledad and King City are all eligible for State cap and trade funding, and under SB 1, the new State transportation funding bill.

Committee Member LeBarre requested TAMC's assistance in preparing for a cap and trade application for the King City station.

Ms. Watson reported that Senator Canella introduced SB 477 to extend rail services to the Central Coast. She noted that Assembly member Caballero agreed to coauthor the legislation. The Senate Committee on Housing and Transportation approved SB 477 on April 25.

Ms. Watson reported that the federal environmental document for the Salinas to San Jose corridor is anticipated to be ready for public review in August.

Ms. Watson notified the Committee that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council is planning for a tour of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) on August 11.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member LeBarre asked that staff notify Committee members once the State Rail Plan becomes available for public review.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.