



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, September 9, 2024

****3:00 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: Adams, Askew, Alejo, Cabrera, Carbone, Church, Delgado, LeBarre, Oglesby, Potter, Sandoval and Smith.

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 Board on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. UAll public comments are limited to three (3) 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 Board 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 August 5, 2024.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the August 5, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

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

- Christina Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

5. **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 and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

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

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the selection of a consultant for the environmental review phase of the project and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting

Monday, October 7, 2024, 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: September 9, 2024
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for August 5, 2024.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the August 5, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_August_5_2024_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of August 5, 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

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

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

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 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Roland LeBrun	Public	Mi Ra Park	TAMC Staff
Tarah Gatten	Caltrans	Madison Springfield	TAMC Staff
Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC	Janneke Strause	TAMC Staff

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Carbone/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 3, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 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.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas.

Ms. Watson reported that on July 17, 2024, staff met with Union Pacific and Caltrans to discuss the next steps in designing the project's intermediate improvements between Gilroy and Salinas.

Ms. Watson noted that the City of Salinas has allowed the Building Permit to expire, despite TAMC's project schedule showing that the project is months away from construction; staff is working with City staff to reopen the permit.

Committee Member Carbone noted that she and Committee Member Smith attended an American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference in San Jose and heard about a grant funding opportunity for security and safety around transportation facilities.

5. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Board approved a contract between HDR Inc. and the Transportation Agency. A kickoff meeting and site visit is scheduled for August 14, 2024. Ms. Guther noted that she attended Pajaro community meetings to discuss the project as well as meetings hosted by the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission related to their Zero Emission Passenger Rail project. Ms. Guther also noted that the project received funding from the Senate Bill 125 funding source.

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.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) working group met on June 21 and July 19 discussed the following:

- Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant application for projects that support increased passenger rail service on the coast corridor (submitted July 23, 2024);
- California Intercity Passenger Rail Summit (October 10-11 in San Diego);
- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations approved after state budget adopted; and
- State budget included increased funds to support intercity rail operations.

Ms. Watson noted that the next Policy Committee meeting is planned for August 23 in San Luis Obispo, preceded by a Central Coast Layover Facility site tour/reception on August 22.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that the next Rail Policy meeting is scheduled on the second week of September due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next meeting is September 9, 2024.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: September 9, 2024
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

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

1. 2024-08-2-05 Herald - Salinas Valley Tourism Bureau

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

LATEST HEADLINES

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau releases its 2024 Portfolio brochure

The piece showcases the bureau's progress creating regional economic development programs through heritage tourism



The California Welcome Center, along with the Salinas City Heritage Center are housed in the Southern Pacific Freight Depot building next to the Salinas train station at the Intermodal Transportation Center in Salinas. (James Herrera/Monterey Herald)



SALINAS – The Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau and its supporters have been focused on promoting and expanding regional tourism for many years and now have a new tool in its belt, its 2024 Portfolio.



(SVTVB)

“The Portfolio is a self-contained presentation of all the moving parts to date that make up our initiatives to grow our regional economies,” said Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Craig Kaufman. “Despite our state, federal, and educational partnerships, getting the local counties and cities to participate in and support these initiatives has been challenging. This

portfolio will hopefully demonstrate our momentum and potential, but more support is needed at the local cities and county levels.”

The Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau’s 2024 Portfolio is a 60-page informational brochure showcasing the bureau’s progress in developing regional economic development programs through heritage tourism, said Kaufman, and is geared to everyone concerned about how to generate more economic opportunities for local communities.

Creating and promoting new tourist destinations in Salinas and the region is the primary initiative of the Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau and its partners, according to the bureau. A key partnership in this effort is the University of California Berkeley’s Master of Urban Design Program. The University joined forces with the SVTVB and assigned academic staff and master’s level coursework to a program of exploring opportunities to expand sustainable regional tourism opportunities.

Students offer a skilled and international exploration into what possibilities exist for new programs that are poised to utilize regional resources in design proposals. Starting in 2022, the University invested in a year- long project effort followed by two semester projects and committed to continuing working with the Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau for at least five years.

Denise Estrada, a First Mayor’s House board member and Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitor Bureau advisory council member, said she believes that so far the collaboration of the stakeholder partners of Heritage Park is the most significant economic development program yet established.



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Heritage Park creates a point of destination and is the initial and most important catalyst for energizing other programs that will follow, said Estrada.

Heritage Park is located at the Intermodal Transportation Center in downtown Salinas at the junction of Market and Salinas streets.

The Center serves as a hub for train, bus, and bicycle traffic, but it also houses the California Welcome Center and its Heritage Museum inside the Southern Pacific freight depot, itself significant in that it is the oldest surviving commercial building in Salinas, as well as other buildings and exhibits.

Facilities within the transportation center area include the First Mayor’s House, the Sophronia Harvey Education Center, the Steaming Ahead Historic Railroad Exhibit, the Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum, the Southern Pacific Depot Annex that includes the Friends of the Salinas Public Library sales site, and the Southern Pacific freight depot.

“Heritage Park is now helping to rebuild the heart of Salinas where the economic visionaries of old brought the railroad to town and facilitated the prosperity of our agriculture-based economy,” said Estrada. “Heritage Park is also preparing for the expansion of the commuter rail extension to Salinas in 2026. With a destination that invites travelers and commuters into a vibrant downtown, the opportunity for our local economy grows.”



People take in the Heritage Museum exhibits during a 2022 event at the California Welcome Center inside the Southern Pacific freight depot, the oldest surviving commercial building in Salinas. (James Herrera/Monterey Herald)

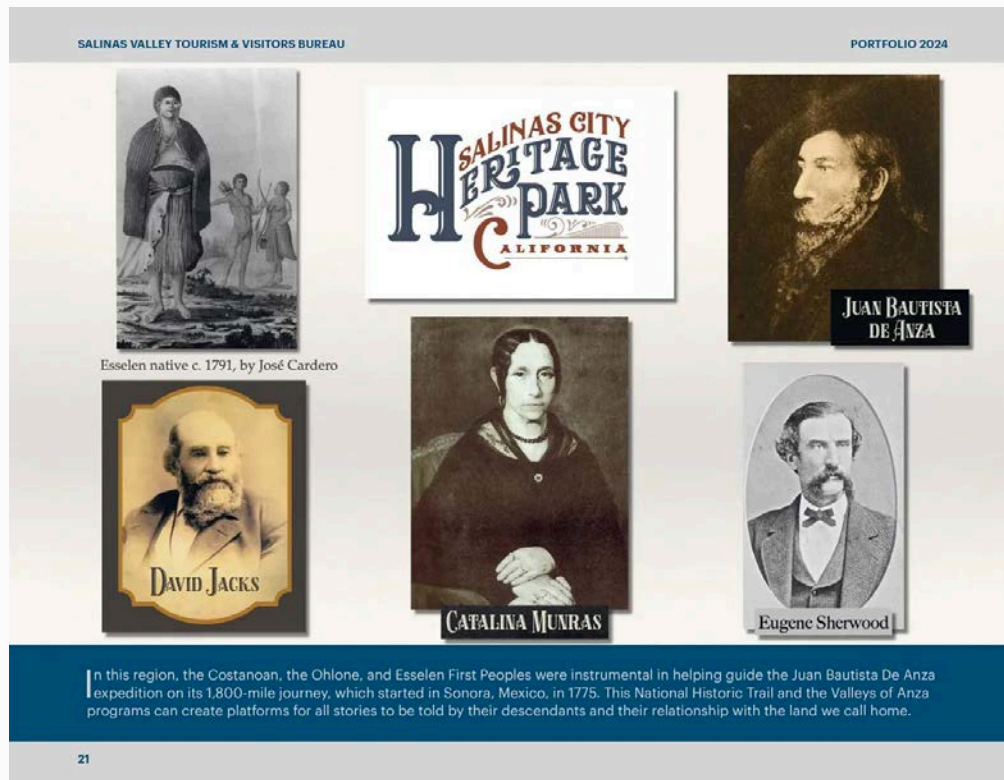
The Transportation Agency for Monterey County’s Monterey County Rail Extension project aims to extend passenger rail service on Caltrain, a commuter rail line, from Santa Clara County south to its new endpoint in Salinas.

The Caltrain layover facility will be situated west of the Intermodal Transportation Center and connect to the Coast Mainline, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks which are used by Union Pacific Railroad freight trains and by Amtrak’s Coast Starlight rail cars. The plan to construct a train crew base building, storage shed, fencing and lighting, will also include a new platform that extends to the Salinas train station in the Intermodal Transportation Center and would be used by passengers boarding Caltrain.

But even with the advent of the Heritage Park, Welcome Center, heritage museum, and pending expanded rail link to the San Francisco Bay Area region, among other initiatives, support has been challenging.

“For so many years, agriculture has been the primary economic focus of our region,” said Estrada. “Heritage tourism activities have historically been focused primarily on the Monterey Peninsula. Although each city has an Economic Development Department, with limited funding, staffing and high priority projects such as housing, envisioning and implementing alternative opportunities for regional economic development has received too little attention.”

Estrada said a regional approach to address new tourism initiatives is the most efficient way of undertaking this challenge.



A page from the Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau 2024 Portfolio brochure. (SVTVB)

“Unfortunately, key players have not always been willing to work beyond their territorial boundaries and come together as a unified team,” she said. “Now with the network of engaged partners expanding from both public and private spheres engaged in seeking creative programs of change, we challenge the counties and cities to join in the effort for a regional benefit.”

Kaufman said that based on the body of work that has been compiled so far, he is hopeful that an objective observer will see the potential and join the Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitors Bureau in building upon the momentum it has started.

“Any business on the ‘main street’ of our still-preserved historic downtowns can realize the benefits these initiatives can generate,” said Kaufman.

Education and outreach are critical, said Estrada, and without information we cannot expect to engage the communities and businesses in building programs that support economic growth.

“SVTVB recognizes that this challenge takes time and resources to accomplish,” said Estrada. “Our staffing resources are very limited; however, we continue to invite groups and individuals to Heritage Park to actively participate in this process. Their enthusiasm and support are what will make the difference in helping to accomplish this important outreach.”

Originally Published: August 5, 2024 at 2:34 p.m.

2024 > August > 5

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: September 9, 2024
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 on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

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 August 22-23 in San Luis Obispo to discuss, among other topics, the following items (see agenda online as a **web attachment**):

- Federal Corridor Identification and Development program;
- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations approved after state budget adopted;
- Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant application for projects that support increased passenger rail service on the coast corridor (submitted July 23, 2024); and
- Dreamstar overnight rail service proposal.

The revised 2024 meeting schedule is online as a **web attachment**. The next Policy Committee meeting is planned for November 8 in Monterey.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [CRCC Policy Committee August agenda](#)
- [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: September 9, 2024
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 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 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 and the City of Salinas.

Operations Scenarios

Caltrans has executed a new contract with DB Engineering & Consulting to restart the work on the Central Coast Service Deployment (CCSD) to advance technical work to bring rail service to Monterey County. In 2021, the group suspended work on the CCSD with unanswered 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 are on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans. TAMC staff has requested permission to begin discussions with the Union Pacific real estate division in order to secure a right-of-way certification by the end of the year.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: September 9, 2024
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 selection of a consultant for the environmental review phase of the project and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work will begin in 2024 with state-secured funding for environmental review. In December 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 \$2.3 million to fund environmental review documentation. In June 2024, the TAMC Board approved a contract between HDR, Inc. and TAMC for approved work. Project activities began in August of 2024:

- August 13, 2024: Project activities began with a kick-off meeting and site visit.
- November 2024: Notice of Preparation Released

Meetings attended that pertain to the project:

August 23, 2024: Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Meeting

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS: