



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 2, 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 October 5, 2020.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the October 5, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. APPROVE 2021 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

- Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2021 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 September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2021 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 and **PROVIDE** input 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 October includes completion of a memo about the public outreach survey. Staff seeks

the Committee's feedback on the study and the proposed path forward to implementation.

6. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in October include progress toward completion of Package 1 and kick-off meetings for design of Packages 2 and 3.

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, January 11, 2021 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.** No correspondence this agenda.
- 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: November 2, 2020
Subject: **Draft October RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of October 5, 2020.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the October 5, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft October RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of October 5, 2020

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	NOV 19	DEC 19	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20	JUL 20	AUG 20	SEP 20	OCT 20
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	C	-	-	N	P(A)	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	-	E	P	P	P	L	P	P	E	-	L	-
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	-	T	P	P	P	L	P	P	T	E	L	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	I	P	P	P	E	P	P	I	P	E	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	D	-
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	G	P	-	P		P	P	G	P		-
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P		-	P	-		P	P		P		-
D. Potter, At Large Member	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)
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	E		E	P	E		P	P		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
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	P		-	-	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		P		P
M. Jacobsen, Transportation Planner	P			P	P		P	P		P		P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Sabo	Monterey Airport	Andy Cook	Caltrans
Ryan Park	AECOM	Shannon Simonds	Caltrans
Justin C Fox	AECOM	Josh Pulverman	Caltrans
Lukas Yanni	AECOM	Tarah Brady	Caltrans
Michael Cornfield	Deutsche Bahn	Lauren Jumanan	Kimley-Horn
Grant Leonard	City of Monterey	Peter Meyerhofer	Kimley-Horn

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Anderson/unanimous

Committee Alternate Josh Stratton pulled item 3.3 for discussion.

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 3, 2020 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.

M/S/C Stratton/Potter/unanimous

3.3 Received report on the final Central Coast Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Study. Committee Alternate Stratton pulled item 3.3 for discussion: Mr. Stratton thanked the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) for completing the study. He asked what the next steps are to see the recommended projects constructed. Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner, noted that Caltrans has asked for the projects to be included in the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as an unfunded project. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that of the many steps to get a project from concept to construction, and getting it in the RTP is the first step to secure funding and move it to the constrained list. Committee Member Potter noted that the County would also need to update its Local Coastal Program.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CALTRANS 2022 STATE RAIL PLAN

The Committee received a presentation from Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation staff and provided feedback to guide the development the 2022 State Rail Plan.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Andy Cook, Josh Pulverman, Tarah Brady, and Shannon Simonds from Caltrans Division of Rail & Mass Transportation.

Josh Pulverman reported that the Rail Plan establishes a strategic vision for prioritizing state investment in the passenger and freight rail network statewide. He noted that it provides a framework for coordination between planning partners, rail operators, rail owners and the state to develop a rail network with a strategic vision in mind. The plan will build upon the regional rail network integration studies that are being conducted in Monterey County and throughout the state.

Committee Member Smith asked for a link to the 2018 rail plan. Mr. Pulverman replied that it can be found online. Shannon Simonds shared the link to the plan.

5. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park, Lukas Yanni and Justin Fox with AECOM and Michael Cornfield with Deutsche Bahn. Mr. Park provided an update on work to date. Mr. Yanni reported on the final survey results, noting a total of 800 people took the survey, with results showing generally positive interest in rail service on the Central Coast.

Committee Alternate Askew was pleased to see more respondents after the last Committee meeting. She asked whether the memo will explain where people live and want to travel by rail. Mr. Yanni responded that the memo will explain travel patterns and what amenities people want on the train and at the stations.

Mr. Park noted that there will be an open house on the draft study to gather more input and try to target audiences that were underrepresented in the survey.

Mr. Cornfield reviewed the draft governance memo outlining the administrative, jurisdictional, contracting, and funding powers needed to scale and deliver the Monterey Bay Regional Network.

Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that the key difference between governance options is whether an entity can levy taxes.

Chair LeBarre noted that another aspect that should be included is whether the entity has eminent domain authority.

Committee Member Smith noted that policy questions need to be answered before a decision can be made as to governance, such as the terminals of the rail line and type of service to be provided. Ms. Hale responded that the governance question is most important for the round-the-bay Santa Cruz to Monterey regional service, and that the timing is good to initiate those discussions as it can take many years to form a new governmental entity. Mr. Smith suggested a coordinating meeting between TAMC and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to further this discussion.

6. SURF! BUSWAY UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the SURF! Busway and 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. The SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project completed 15% design. She noted that as part of the outreach, the project team has developed a video simulation. The simulation was presented at the meeting.

Peter Meyerhofer, Kimley-Horn, reviewed the 15% plans, noting that the Busway enters the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way at Del Monte Boulevard and Palm Avenue in Marina and exits the rail right-of-way at California Avenue and Fremont Street in Sand City. The busway parallels Highway 1 for approximately six miles. The majority of the busway runs on the east side of the rail right-of-way, with minimal crossing points over the rail tracks. There are three proposed crossings over the rail line due to physical and geographic constraints in the corridor, and to minimize project costs.

Committee Alternate Askew noted that land at Palm Avenue and Marina Drive is owned by school district and they have plans for housing in the future. She also asked TAMC staff to remove a fence at that intersection. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted she would talk to Dave Delfino of TAMC staff about the fence.

Committee Member Smith asked who addresses pedestrian crossings and potential conflicts between the bus system and the future rail line plans. Mr. Meyerhofer replied that we are hoping the bus network will grow ridership that will enable us to evolve into future rail service.

Committee Alternate Anderson asked if the busway will be one direction in the AM, one direction in the PM. Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit, replied that MST is proposing two-way travel as most flexible solution to congestion on the highway.

Committee Member Smith requested that the project team add more bikes and pedestrian to the 5th Street Station element of the video simulation.

7. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the construction team continues to make progress on Package 1. She noted that in August, TAMC approved four change orders relating to sidewalk and drainage pipe elevations, bus shelter pads, tree removal, and unsuitable material removal. The construction team continues to work on Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza. The construction work is now 69% complete per the amendment budget and 88% percent complete per the schedule. The team currently anticipates completion of the project in Mid-November 2020. TAMC is organizing a ribbon cutting ceremony, with the option for virtual participation, for December 7, 2020 at 3 pm at the train station.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to oversee the right-of-way to further negotiations and finalize the acquisition. He noted that the cases have been filled with the superior court and we are in contact with property owners.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that Caltrain provided the final feasibility study to TAMC to share with the committee. The study is focused on answering critical due diligence questions around operations, governance, and legal consideration of the near term service scenario of extending existing weekday service from Gilroy to Salinas. The found central principles of the report are:

1. Service must be cost-neutral for JBP.
2. No changes to Caltrain mainline service.
3. TAMC, working with the State, will address all risks and liabilities of the new service.
4. No changes to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) governance structure.

She noted that assuming these principles are achieved, Caltrain did not find any significant operational, legal, or design roadblocks and concluded that an extension to Salinas is feasible. The study outlines steps to initiate service, including a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the goal of developing a fee for service arrangement.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, announced that Transportation Agency has a new website. She noted that it is streamlined and ADA accessible. Staff is still working on posting old agendas and minutes.

9. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:50p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: **2021 Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE 2021 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2021 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 September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Please mark your calendars for the 2021 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 11*
- February 1
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 7
- August 2
- September 13*
- October 4
- November 1

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 11, to avoid conflicts with extended winter holiday schedules, and the September meeting will be on September 13, since the first Monday is Labor Day. Meeting time and location will remain the same: 3:00 p.m. via remote conferencing until further notice, and at the TAMC conference room at 55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, when safe to do so (the agenda will specify).

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.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: **2021 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2021 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 2021 legislative program continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2021 legislative session. **Attachment 1** is the draft legislative program.

Items of particular interest to this Committee include:

State:

- 1S. Preserve funding for transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S. Pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, and public transportation for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 7S. Support a resolution to recognize the Coast Route as an active rail corridor that can help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 14S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, and active transportation projects.

Federal:

- 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:

- 7. Support Monterey-Salinas Transit application for federal funding for the SURF Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
- 4F. Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 5F. Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak to restore pre-COVID-19 service level and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.

The Executive Committee discussed this draft legislative program on October 7, 2020, and on October 28, 2020, 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 on January 6, 2021, the final program will come back to the Board on January 27, 2021 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▢ Draft 2021 Legislative Program



DRAFT 2021 Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S.** Preserve funding for transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S.** Pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, and public transportation for Monterey County projects.
- 3S.** Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S.** Support funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and rebates for electric vehicle purchase.
- 5S.** Explore replacement funding mechanisms for transportation investments, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, or wholesale energy taxes.
- 6S.** Support funding to increase broadband infrastructure capacity to help bridge the digital divide and to encourage telecommuting to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- 7S.** Support a resolution to recognize the Coast Route as an active rail corridor that can 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 to increase safety and reduce fatalities by modifying laws establishing speed limits to be based on safety considerations, with attention to enforcement of speed limits.
- 10S.** Support legislation to devote more funding to 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 to update Transportation Development Act (TDA) law.
- 13S.** 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.** Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, and active transportation projects.
- 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.



DRAFT 2021 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. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
 2. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, or wholesale energy taxes.
 3. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
 4. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding, including cash flow options for small and rural grantees.
 5. Support the return of directed federal funding for transportation priorities.
 6. Coordinate with military installations in Monterey County to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to those installations.
 7. Support Monterey-Salinas Transit application for federal funding for the SURF Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
 8. Support applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program on the California Central Coast.
- 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 passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 5F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak to restore pre-COVID-19 service level and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 6F.** 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, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: Rail Network Integration Study Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update and **PROVIDE** input 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 October includes completion of a memo about the public outreach survey. Staff seeks the Committee's feedback on the study and the proposed path forward to implementation.

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. The study will be the foundation for future applications for rail capital and operations grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration 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 study is intended to provide information for the TAMC Rail Policy Committee to consider in recommendations to the TAMC Board of Directors as to next steps on implementing rail projects in Monterey County connecting to the Central Coast and the Northern California megaregion. Staff is seeking Committee input on key decision points related to governance options and operator agreements.

The next Network Advisory Committee (NAC) is scheduled to be held on November 30, 2020.

The following deliverables are online as web attachments:

- Final Public Sentiment Survey Memo
- Final Future Service Vision Memo, with appendices and rail/bus schedules

Future deliverables expected for the January Committee meeting:

- Draft Fleet Strategies Memo

- Updated Governance & Operations Memo
- Draft Cost Estimates Memo
- Draft Ridership Estimates Memo
- Draft Network Integration Study

The team will present an update on work completed to date and solicit input on the work accomplished to date and the path forward to implementation of the memo's recommendations.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Public Sentiment Survey Memo](#)
- [Future Service Vision Memo](#) (with [appendices](#) and [rail/bus schedules](#))



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 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 October include progress toward completion of Package 1 and kick-off meetings for design of Packages 2 and 3.

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. Approved change orders now total \$506,991.64 or 45% of the contingency fund approved by the Board.

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 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 October 2020, the construction team continued work on Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza. The construction work is now 72% complete per the amended budget and 95% percent complete per the schedule. The team currently anticipates completion of the project in early December. TAMC is organizing a ribbon-cutting photo op, with the option for virtual participation. Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

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.

Package 3: Gilroy Station & Track Improvements, Operations Scenarios

Staff has set up kick-off meetings for the design of Packages 2 and 3 with Union Pacific Railroad on November 3 and with Caltrain and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for November 6.

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



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: **Reports**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Capitol Corridor Monthly Report for August 2020](#)
- [Capitol Corridor Monthly Report for September 2020](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [September 12, 2020 editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle, "Vote yes on Measure RR to keep Caltrain on the rails"](#)
- [September 19, 2020 editorial in the San Jose Mercury News, "Keep Caltrain rail service on track. Vote yes on Measure RR"](#)
- [September 24, 2020 article in Mass Transit, "Occupancy data: A real crowd pleaser"](#)
- [September 27, 2020 opinion in the San Jose Mercury News, "Want cleaner air? Vote yes on Measure RR to save Caltrain"](#)
- [September 30, 2020 item on Streetsblog California, "Streetsblog California Endorses Measure RR"](#)
- [October 1, 2020 editorial in the San Mateo Daily Journal, "Yes on Measure RR"](#)