

## FINAL MINUTES

### TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members: Michael LeBarre (Chair), Chris Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair),  
Dave Potter (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair), Mary Adams (Past Chair),  
Wendy Root Askew (County representative), Chaps Poduri (City representative)*

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

\*\*\* 8:30 a.m. \*\*\*

Transportation Agency Conference Room, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA

Alternate locations:

*2616 1st Avenue, Marina, CA 93933, Supervisor Askew's Office*

*599 El Camino Real, Greenfield, CA 93927, Supervisor Lopez's Office*

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  | NOV<br>22    | JAN<br>23    | FEB<br>23  | MAR<br>23 | APR<br>23 | MAY<br>23    | JUN<br>23 | AUG<br>23    | SEP<br>23 | OCT<br>23    |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Michael LeBarre, <b>Chair</b><br>King City (C. DeLeon)                               | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC)  | P         | P         | P            | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC)    |
| Mary Adams, <b>Past Chair</b><br>Supr. Dist. 5<br>(C. Courtney)                      | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(TC)    | P<br>(VC)  | P         | P         | P(A)<br>(VC) | P         | P(A)<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC) | P            |
| Chris Lopez, <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</b><br>Supr. Dist. 3<br>(P. Barba)         | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC)  | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC) | P(A)<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC) | P(A)<br>(VC) |
| Dave Potter, <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice<br/>Chair</b><br>Carmel-By-The-Sea<br>(J. Baron) | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC)    | A          | P*        | P         | P            | P         | P            | P         | P            |
| Wendy Root Askew,<br><b>County Representative</b><br>Supr. Dist. 4<br>(Y. Anderson)  | P(A)<br>(VC) | P(A)<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC)  | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC)    | P<br>(VC) | P(A)<br>(VC) | P<br>(VC) | P(A)<br>(VC) |
| Chaps Poduri,<br><b>City Representative</b><br>(Joe Amelio)                          | P<br>(VC)    | E            | P*<br>(VC) | P         | P         | P            | P<br>(VC) | P            | P         | P            |

*TC: via teleconference; VC: via video conference*

P = Present

A = Absent

P(A) = alternate present

E = Excused

P(VC) Video Conference

P\*= New Representative

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Guther, Kise, Muck, Rodriguez, Sambrano, Strause, Watson, and Zeller.

Others present: Robert Brayer, County Counsel; Paul Schlesinger and Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners; Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting; and Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Committee Member Adams seconded by Committee Alternate Member Anderson, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of September 6, 2023.

## **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & DRAFT 2024 PROGRAM**

On a motion by Committee Member Potter seconded by Committee Member Adams, the Committee voted 6-0 to recommend the Board of Directors approve the draft 2024 legislative program for distribution to committees.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, highlighted proposed edits to the draft 2024 legislative program.

Gus Khouri, Agency state legislative analyst, presented an update on state legislative activities. He noted that the Governor has until October 13 to veto or sign legislation.

Jim Davenport and Paul Schlesinger, Agency federal legislative analysts, presented an update on federal legislative activities. Mr. Davenport reported that the Continuing Resolution expires on November 17, noting they have six and a half weeks to get appropriations bills passed. The House will not start appropriations bill process until a new Speaker is elected. The Senate's federal fiscal year 2024 Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Bill includes a \$1.8 million earmark to construct a segment of the G12 Pajaro to Prunedale project. Mr. Shlesinger noted the newest Senator for CA was sworn in, and that Senator Butler will be in the job at least until the 2024 election to fill that seat. Chair LeBarre asked staff to draft a letter congratulating Senator Butler.

Ms. Watson outlined the parameters for federal fiscal year 2025 “Community Project Funding” (earmarks), setting the stage for a future discussion of potential projects to nominate for an earmark.

## **5. STATE TRANSIT AND ZERO EMISSION FUNDING PROJECT CANDIDATES**

The Committee received information about state transit and zero emission funding and eligible projects.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported on July 10, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law, which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). TAMC is slated to receive \$44.5 million over two years in TIRCP formula funds and \$8 million over four years for the ZETCP.

Ms. Guther noted that if funds are to be applied to transit operations in fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, then TAMC must submit a regional short-term financial plan to demonstrate how the region will address any operational deficit using all available funds (besides SB125 funds) through FY 2025–26.

She noted that a maximum of 1% of the total SB 125 multi-year funding budget, or just shy of \$530,000, may be programmed by TAMC for administration of funding and planning expenses related to developing the long-term financial plan.

Director Muck noted that this is a unique program, in that once TAMC submits the project allocation request at the end of December, the state will allocate the funds to TAMC. TAMC can modify the project list after the allocation, which will create opportunities to fund projects as they develop, and other fund sources are brought in.

## **6. 2024 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Committee received an update and provided input on the funding proposal for the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Janneke Strause, Transportation Planner, reported that the State Transportation Improvement Program is funded through state and federal gas taxes on a 5-year cycle. The fund estimate adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in August is for FY 2024/2024 – FY 2028/2029; Monterey County’s share for the 5-year period is \$15,515,000. She noted that every two years in December, regions submit their project proposals in the form of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the CTC for approval in March the following year.

Ms. Strause reported that staff are proposing allocating funds to the Scenic State Route 68 corridor and US 101 South of Salinas corridor in the 2024 RTIP. The final proposal will go to the TAMC Board at their December meeting.

## **7. STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE SERVICES CONTRACT**

On a motion by Committee Member Potter and seconded by Committee Member Adams, the Committee voted 6-0 to recommend the Board of Directors:

1. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to extend the contract with Khouri Consulting for State legislative analyst/ advocate services, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, by two years, until October 31, 2025, adding One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$144,000) to the current contract for a total amended contract budget of Two Hundred and Eight-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$288,000);
2. Authorize the use of reserve funds budgeted to this project; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the contract, including approvals of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved contract term or amount.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that staff recommends extending the current contract for another two years, expiring October 31, 2025. Staff recommends increasing the payment from \$4,000 per month, which was the rate for the three-year contract, to \$6,000 per month for the next two years. This new rate reflects the lack of a cost-of-living increase over that contract's duration and the increase in costs over the period of the contract.

Ms. Watson noted that Gus Khouri has done an excellent job representing TAMC for the past three years, including proactive and timely efforts on behalf of the Agency on multiple bills, grant applications and other funding issues. Mr. Khouri exhibits a depth of understanding of transportation issues and of Agency priorities. Mr. Khouri recently brought on Mitch Weiss to help him with his workload. Mitch was recently the Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and has an exceptional knowledge of transportation funding and finance.

Director Muck noted staff recognized we have been paying Mr. Khouri less than what other similar sized agencies pay him, noting staff is very happy with his performance. Chair LeBarre noted that Gus is knowledgeable and experienced. Committee Members Adams, Potter, and Poduri concurred.

## **8. TAMC BOARD DRAFT AGENDA**

Executive Director Todd Muck reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of October 25, 2023. After Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project Update
- 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- 2026 Regional Transportation Plan Update
- Legislative Update & Draft 2024 Program

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.