

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of October 4, 2021

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21	FEB 21	MAR 21	APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	-	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	-	P(A)	E	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		E	P(A)	P
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave , C. Courtney)	P(A)	E	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	-	-	-	P	L	-	-	P(A)	E	P	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	E	T	E	P	-
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	I	P	-	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	-	-	P	P		P	P	P	G	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	-	P	-	P		-	P	P		P	-	-
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	P	P	-	E		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)	P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		P		-	-	-		-	P	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		E	P	-
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P		P	P	E		P	P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	P	P	P		P	-	P		-	-	-
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P	-	P	P		P	P	P		P	P	P
D. Bilsé, Principal Engineer						P	-	-		-	-	-

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Josh Pulverman	Caltrans	Tarah Brady	Caltrans
Andy Myrick	City of Salinas	Shannon Simonds	Caltrans
Andrew Easterling	City of Salinas	Sheena Patel	HDR
David Schmalz	Monterey County Weekly		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Craig/Askew /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the September 6, 2021, 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.

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 Josh Pulverman, Caltrans, who reported that Caltrans is initiating the next update to the State Rail Plan, which it will complete by June 2022, to meet requirements for prioritizing state and federal investment in passenger and freight rail. He noted that they condensed the 9 regions from the 2018 plan to 7 regions for the 2020 plan. He stated the scheduled public comment period is from November 2021 to January 2022. Mr. Pulverman noted that the final draft plan will be released by March 2022 and the final plan would be published in June 2022.

Chair LeBarre asked if the planning kits would be available to other agencies and cities. Mr. Pulverman replied that the cities might need to go through TAMC for kits. Shannon Simonds, Caltrans, noted that the statewide infrastructure, track charts, and signal locations applicable to rail service would be available to rail operators on the statewide rail network.

Chair LeBarre noted that Monterey-Salinas Transit is planning a route analysis and would benefit from knowing the rail schedule. Ms. Simonds replied that the Rail Plan tool doesn't identify every transfer throughout the system, it is focused on hub stations. She suggested MST could reach out to a regional rail planner or Caltrans for more information.

5. **SALINAS RAIL DEPLOYMENT PLAYBOOK**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension Deployment Playbook.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Shannon Simmonds with Caltrans, who reported that in July 2021, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit kicked off Central Coast near-term service deployment work. This project will get the Salinas Rail Extension project into revenue service in the near-term. Ms. Simmonds noted that the team is currently focused on identifying operating funding and drafting administrative agreements.

6. **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 team continues to work toward the completion of Package 1 construction. Ms. Williamson noted that staff plans to bring the Notice of Completion to the TAMC Board in December.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that staff continues to coordinate with the City of Salinas on the Package 1 land transfer. She noted that the TAMC Board approved the agreement in September, and it will go next to the Salinas City Council and then California Transportation Commission (CTC) for approval.

Committee Member Craig asked when it will be going to the City of Salinas for approval. Andy Myrick, City of Salinas, replied that he is working to get it on the October 26 or November 9 City Council agenda.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on the five parcels for the Salinas layover facility. Mr. Zeller noted that a Request for Proposals for the Monterey County Rail Extension Union Pacific Railroad Property Acquisition is out, and that October 28 is the deadline for proposals.

Ms. Watson reported that staff is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TAMC and Caltrain outlining the process towards an operating agreement, and an MOU among TAMC, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City of Gilroy for improvements near the Gilroy train station. Ms. Watson noted that staff is also working on a Fund Transfer Agreement between TAMC and Caltrans, to transfer \$1,615,000 of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding to help fund the Positive Train Control project between Gilroy and San Luis Obispo.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Askew asked whether the Committee must make AB 361 findings for continued remote meetings. Executive Director Todd Muck stated that action was taken at the September TAMC Board on behalf of all its committees.

Committee Member Medina Dirksen noted that the Handcar tours ended last week. Ms. Medina Dirksen suggested a resolution of appreciation. Chair LeBarre replied to send idea to Executive Director Todd Muck and TAMC Board Chair Ed Smith.

Christina Watson invited the committee to the Santa Cruz demonstration streetcar on October 15. Committee Alternate Stratton asked if elected officials are allowed to accept a free trip on this streetcar demo. Ms. Watson said she would check with TAMC Counsel and notify Committee members via email.

Chair LeBarre announced that King City gave a tour last Thursday that included a virtual update of the platform project.

Christina Watson announced the next Committee meeting is on November 1, 2021, at 3 pm.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.