

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

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. \*\*\*

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

Alternate locations:

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

*168 West Alisal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Salinas, CA 93901, Supervisor Alejo's Office*

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

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AUG 23</b>	<b>SEP 23</b>	<b>OCT 23</b>	<b>NOV 23</b>	<b>JAN 24</b>	<b>FEB 24</b>	<b>MAR 24</b>	<b>APR 24</b>	<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>JUN 24</b>
Chris Lopez, <b>Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 3 (P. Barba)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Dave Potter, <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</b> Carmel-By-The-Sea (J. Baron)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P
Wendy Root Askew, <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Michael LeBarre, <b>Past Chair</b> King City (C. DeLeon)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Luis Alejo, <b>County Representative</b> Supr. Dist. 5 (L. Gonzales; J. Gomez)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P*	P(A) (VC)	P	P	P(A) (VC)
Chaps Poduri, <b>City Representative</b> (Joe Amelio)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	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 Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Guther, Kise, Montiel, Muck, Park, Rodriguez, Sambrano, Watson, Zeller.

Others present: Paul Schlesinger and Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners; Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting; Yuri Anderson, Supervisor 4 District office; Jasmine Mejia Cortez, Supervisor District 1 office; David Schonbrunn, TRAC; Michael Setty, TRAC; Carl Miller, Monterey Airport; Carl Sedoryk, MST; Bryan Rosen; Lorna Moffet

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Committee Member LeBarre, seconded by Committee Member Potter, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of May 1, 2024.

## **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

On a motion by Committee Member LeBarre, seconded by Committee Member Poduri, the Committee voted 6-0 to act on behalf of the Board of Directors to adopt an “oppose” position on Assembly Bill (AB) 6 (Friedman) due to its timeline for review by Senate committees prior to the Board meeting.

Jim Davenport and Paul Schlesinger, Agency Federal Legislative Consultants, reported that both Senators Butler and Padilla submitted fiscal year 2025 earmark requests for the King City multimodal station and the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Climate Resiliency projects. He noted that staff will continue to work with their staff to elevate TAMC’s projects.

Gus Khouri, Agency State Legislative Consultant, presented a state legislative update. He noted that Governor Newsom, Assembly Speaker Rivas, and Senate President pro tempore McGuire negotiated a solution to the Active Transportation Program by moving State Highway Funds to replace the General Funds allocated in the prior year’s budget. He highlighted the following bills of interest:

- AB 2535 (Bonta) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program would have reduced funding available for our projects’ applications; the bill was defeated in committee and is not moving ahead this year.

- AB 6 (Friedman): Transportation planning: regional transportation plans: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, was recently amended to give the California Air Resources Board veto authority over Sustainable Communities Strategies, which are required for TAMC to be able to apply for Senate Bill 1 funding for transportation projects. Staff requested the Executive Committee act on behalf of the TAMC Board to oppose this bill, due to the quick turnaround of the bill going to key Senate committees in the next few weeks, prior to the Board meeting.

Public comment:

Bryan Rose, resident, commented that he supports bills that limit air pollution.

Carl Sedoryk, MST, noted that MST was also listed in Senator Butler and Padilla's list of transportation funding projects, \$1 million for a hydrogen fueling facility in King City.

Lorna Moffett, resident, spoke in opposition to the SURF Project.

## **5. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE**

On a motion by Committee Member LeBarre, seconded by Committee Member Askew, the Committee voted 6-0 to recommend that the Board of Directors approve a one-year extension to the current contract with Thorn Run Partners for federal legislative assistance and directed staff to go out with a Request for Qualifications in the summer of 2025 for a new contract that would be good for five years.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the TAMC Board approved a contract with Alcalde & Fay on May 26, 2021. Paul Schlesinger was a key reason why the Agency selected that firm. Mr. Schlesinger transferred to Thorn Run partners in November 2021, and the TAMC Board approved executing a contract with Thorn Run Partners on December 1, 2021.

In the past 2.5 years, Thorn Run has successfully advocated for TAMC to secure two federal community project funding requests: \$1 million for the US 101 Spence Road auxiliary lane (fiscal year 2023), and \$1,811,000 for the Pajaro-to-Prunedale G12 corridor project (fiscal year 2024). They are supporting TAMC's current requests for funding for the King City Multimodal Station and the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 Climate Resiliency project (fiscal year 2025). They have supported our federal grant efforts. They have supported visits of Board members to Washington, DC and set up teleconference / videoconference meetings with our federal representatives and agency officials. They provide monthly reports to the Executive Committee and Board and weekly updates to staff.

## **6. INVESTMENT POLICY UPDATE**

On a motion by Committee Member Askew, seconded by Committee Member Potter, the Committee voted 6-0 to invite the County Treasurer to a TAMC Board meeting to present on the Agency Investment Policy.

Jeff Kise, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the rise in interest rates over the last couple of years has caused some to question the relatively low yield being realized by the agency's investments. Mr. Kise reported that staff investigated the possibility of opening alternative investment accounts and met with the County Treasurer to discuss County investment guidelines and returns. Mr. Kise notes that the County Pool has a maximum investment horizon of five years, the result of which is that in a rising rate environment, the pool's average yield is depressed by the relatively low yield of longer-term investments purchased when rates were low; the flip side is that when rates start to go

down, the pool's yield does not drop as quickly since it is propped up by long-term instruments bought during the high-rate period.

## **7. APPRAISAL OF THE MONTEREY BRANCH LINE CORRIDOR**

On a motion by Committee Member Askew, seconded by Committee Member LeBarre, the Committee voted 5-1 to recommend that the Board of Directors ratify actions necessary for Agency staff to contract with an appraisal firm to determine the fair-market value of the Monterey Branch Line corridor. Committee Member Potter voted no.

Executive Director Todd Muck reported that the Agency purchased the Monterey Branch Line using \$9,228,475 of Proposition 116 rail bond funds in 2003. California Transportation Commission staff are recommending the Agency pay a credit to the State for the fair-market value of the property in 2024 dollars to rectify the missed ten-year deadline to begin service per the CTC resolution approving the funding allocation. To determine the fair-market value of the corridor, the Agency will need to retain the services of an appraisal firm, which is expected to be under \$50,000, funded by rail lease revenues. Failure to do so would jeopardize the \$78 million in secured funding for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project.

Committee member Askew supported the proposal to allow staff to do an appraisal to maximize the Agency's financial flexibility and to preserve the rail corridor.

Committee Member Potter expressed concern about losing funding for rail projects.

Public Comment:

Lorna Moffett, resident, spoke in opposition to the SURF Project.

Bryan Rosen, resident, spoke in opposition to the SURF Project.

Michael Setty, TRAC, commented on the Train Riders Association of California proposal.

David Schonbrunn, TRAC, commented on the Train Riders Association of California proposal.

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

Executive Director Todd Muck reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of June 26, 2024. After Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Measure X Ordinance Amendment
- Monterey Bay Drone, Automation and Robotics Technology (MB DART) initiative
- Prop 116 and the Monterey Branch Line
- Transportation Agency Community Group Memberships

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.