

FINAL MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Members are: Frank Sollecito. (Chair),
Lou Calcagno (1st Vice Chair), Steve Villegas (2nd Vice Chair),
Dave Potter (Past Chair), Simón Salinas (County representative),
Sue Kleber (City representative)*

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

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

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 2nd Vice Chairman Villegas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Kleber, Villegas, alternates Dunham for Salinas, Gowin for Calcagno, Lee for Potter and Reichmuth for Sollecito. Staff present: Bachman, Cook, Goel, Hale, Muck, Rodriguez, Watson, and Agency Counsel Blankenship. Others present: John Arriaga, JEA Associates; Clif Price, City of Soledad; and Carl Sedoryk, Monterey-Salinas Transit.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Board member Kleber and second by Board alternate Reichmuth the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the consent items as follows:

- 3.1 **RECEIVED** report on status of the Carmel Hill and River Bicycle Trail Project.

END OF CONSENT

4. **RECEIVED** state legislative update and **RECOMMENDED** that the Board adopt positions on bills in the state legislative bill list.

John Arriaga, JEA Associates, gave an update on state bills of interest and recommended Agency “support” or “support if amended” positions.

On a motion by Board alternate Reichmuth and second by Board alternate Lee the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the staff recommendation to recommend the Board to adopt positions on bills in the state legislative bill list, excluding Assembly Bill 644.

The Committee separately considered Assembly Bill 644 (Caballero), to designate Monterey-Salinas Transit as a rapid transit district. The Committee failed (on a vote of 3 to 3) to adopt a motion by Board alternate Lee, seconded by Board alternate Reichmuth, to approve a recommendation to the Board to adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 644 as currently drafted, with a request that Monterey-Salinas Transit work with the four South County cities and Assemblymember Caballero to resolve Board membership issues. Committee members Lee, Reichmuth and Villegas voted in favor of the motion and members Dunham, Gowin and Kleber voted against the motion.

On a motion by Board alternate Gowin and second by Board alternate Reichmuth, the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve a recommendation to the Board to adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 644 if amended to reflect stipulate that the proposed transit district board be composed of a representative from each of the incorporated cities in the county and the county, instead of specifying an eight member Board of Directors.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, reported that the South County City Managers had submitted a letter to Assembly member Anna Caballero requesting amendments to Assembly Bill 644. The South County cities would like to be represented as equal voting members and requested that the bill be amended for that purpose.

Committee member Kleber and alternates Dunham and Gowin expressed concern with the original bill language specifying an 8-member board that does not include the South County cities as equal voting members when they would be included within the new transit district's taxing authority. Committee alternates Reichmuth and Lee favored the recommendation that MST staff work with the South County cities on membership issues rather than hold up the bill.

Carl Sedoryk, Monterey-Salinas Transit, reported that changing MST from a Joint Powers Authority to a transit district allows for the ability to seek bond funds for large projects with no changes to governance, and capability of putting a sales tax measure on a ballot. He noted that membership on the MST Board requires giving all of the jurisdictions' local transportation funds to MST.

Clif Price, City of Soledad, replied that with the proposed unmet transit needs finding, the South County cities would already be contributing about 90% of their local transportation funds to support Monterey-Salinas Transit.

5. **RECEIVED** update on federal stimulus funding.

Todd Muck, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that state legislation implementing the federal stimulus bill had been signed by the Governor, so the Transportation Agency has more control over how to spend its stimulus funds. A total of \$19 million is available to Monterey County, of which \$8.3 million has already been programmed to local projects. Staff is recommending that \$10.4 million be programmed to the Highway 101 San Juan Road project or the Highway 1 Salinas Road project depending on whether or not Caltrans will commit matching funds and guarantees that Prop 1B bond replacement funds can be applied to 101/San Juan Road. Mr. Muck reported that \$571,000 in stimulus funding is targeted toward Transportation Enhancement projects such as bicycle, transportation component and landscaping projects. He also noted staff is looking at existing federalized projects such as the County's Carmel Valley Greens and the Castroville undercrossing projects as good candidates for the stimulus enhancement funds. A recommendation will be made to the Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its April meeting.

6. **RECOMMENDED** that the recommendation to the Agency Board on the Fiscal Year 2009-10 unmet transit needs be moved to the May, 2009 Executive Committee meeting.

On a motion by Board alternate Reichmuth and second by Board member Kleber the committee voted 6 – 0 to continue Executive Committee's recommendation on the Fiscal Year 2009-10 unmet transit needs finding to May with a request that staff provide more data.

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported California state law requires the Transportation Agency to make a finding on Unmet Transit Needs prior to allocating Local Transportation Funds to any jurisdiction for streets and roads projects or other eligible purposes. Agency staff is recommending that additional weekday service on Monterey-Salinas Transit Line 23 between King City and Salinas up to hourly service on weekdays is reasonable to meet. Initiation of service would take place pending agreement with MST, the County of Monterey and the South County jurisdictions. Mr. Cook noted that staff met with County of Monterey and South County cities' staff on March 30, 2009. Agency staff agreed to review ridership/trip data, provide more documentation that the ridership warrants the level of service being requested and meet again with South County and County representatives prior to bringing a final recommendation to the Transportation Agency Board.

Carl Sedoryk, Monterey-Salinas Transit, reported that MST's Line 23 is very successful in terms of passenger boarding's. MST has concerns with passengers standing on busses traveling at freeway speeds.

7. **RECOMMENDED** that the Board of Directors approve a bereavement leave policy effective July 1, 2009.

On a motion by Board alternate Reichmuth and second by Board alternate Dunham the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the proposed bereavement leave policy effective July 1, 2009, with two additions: to include the approval of the Executive Director and add step-mother, step-father and step-siblings to the immediate family list.

8. **RECEIVED** report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of April 29, 2009. Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda. She noted that the unmet transit needs finding for fiscal year 2009-10 would be only an informational item based on the committee’s discussion. She also noted that Todd Muck would make a formal proposal for utilizing the remaining stimulus funding. The Committee also discussed the Reports from Other Agencies agenda item and requested that the list of agencies be reduced to Caltrans, MST, and “others”. In conclusion, Ms. Hale announced the “bike to TAMC Board meeting event” on April 29, 2009 and noted that the ride will depart from the TAMC offices at 8:00 a.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**
2nd Vice Chairman Villegas adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant