

AGENDA

*** SPECIAL MEETING ***

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

**Monday, February 25, 2008
3:45 P.M.**

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas**

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the TAMC office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. **Roll Call and Introductions.** A quorum for the voting TAMC Rail Policy Committee members consists of a minimum of 6 of the following voting members: Potter (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Armenta, Calcagno, Sollecito, Wilmot, Lutes, Morgan, Ortiz, Rubio.
If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your two alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS ON TODAY'S AGENDA.**
Any member of the public may address the Rail Policy Committee at this time. Presentations should not exceed three minutes, should be directed to an item on today's agenda, and should be within the jurisdiction of the Rail Policy Committee.

BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA: Approve the staff recommendations for **items 3.1-3.3** 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 January 7, 2008 Rail Policy Committee meeting.
– Cook

- 3.2 **RECEIVE** report on Federal Transit Administration New Starts allocations for fiscal year 2009. – Watson **Pages 9 - 10**

The Federal Transit Administration has released its annual report on funding recommendations for the New Starts and Small Starts program. The report includes \$200 million for Small Starts projects nationwide.

- 3.3 **RECOMMEND** that the Board of Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the State of California Employment Development Department. – Hoschouer **Page 11**

The Transportation Agency is requesting State Employment Development Data for the purpose of developing the ridership model for the Monterey Branch Line Project and the Caltrain Extension Project.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **RECEIVE** update on Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project budget. – Watson **Pages 12 - 14**

This report is an update on the project budget for the Caltrain Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project.

5. **RECOMMEND** the Board approve draft scope of work for Caltrain Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County Project Assistance with Negotiations and authorize the Executive Director to release the request for proposals. – Watson **Pages 15 - 17**

Parsons is under contract to the Agency to provide technical assistance in strategy and negotiations with Federal Transit Administration, Union Pacific, Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. This Request for Proposals is for additional outside contract assistance to Agency and Parsons staff in these negotiations.

6. **RECEIVE** information about a potential special train to Salinas in September 2008. – Watson **Page 18**

Agency staff is working with Caltrain staff to coordinate a possible "Steinbeck Special" train to Salinas on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

7. **RECEIVE** information on the Bus Rapid Transit Projects in the Transportation Investment Plan. – Hoschouer **Pages 19 - 21**

Transit is scheduled to receive 20% of the transportation sales tax funds. Seventy-five percent of the transit program funding will be devoted to rapid bus projects.

8. **ELECT** District 5 Supervisor Dave Potter as Chair and Seaside Mayor Ralph Rubio as Vice-Chair for 2008-2010. – Watson **Pages 22 - 23**

The bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year, beginning in 2008.

9. **TAKE** Committee Photo for 2008

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:

Monday, April 7, 2008, 3:45 p.m.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

******Please note the March 3, 2008 meeting has been cancelled******

Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

by Tuesday, March 25, 2008

55-B PLAZA CIRCLE, SALINAS, CA 93901-2902

TEL: 831-775-0903

FAX: 831-775-0897

The next Rail Policy Committee agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon Tuesday, March 25, 2008 nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member 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.

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 at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, 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

Online at www.tamcmonterey.org

- C-1** January 9, 2008 article in the *East Bay Express*, “Who Said Building a Railroad Was Easy? This could be the make-or-break year for the state's proposed high-speed rail system”.
- C-2** January 12, 2008 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “State lawmakers demand hard numbers before approving bullet train”.
- C-3** January 22, 2008 letter from Rail Passenger Association of California (RailPAC) President Paul J. Dyson to Alex Kummant, Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer, re: Suspension of *Coast Starlight* Service.
- C-4** January 23, 2008 letter from Caltrans District 5 Director Richard Krumholz to Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration, re: Extending Caltrain Service to Monterey County.
- C-5** January 23, 2008 Amtrak Service Alert: *Coast Starlight* Service Disruption – Train Service Suspended Due to Massive Mudslides Across Railroad Tracks North of Chemult, Oregon.
- C-6** January 23, 2008 letter from City of Santa Barbara City Administrator Jim Armstrong to Alex Kummant, Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer, re: Suspension of *Coast Starlight* Service.
- C-7** January 24, 2008 letter from RailPAC President Paul J. Dyson to Senator Barbara Boxer, re: Amtrak *Coast Starlight* train service suspended.
- C-8** January 24, 2008 letter from Los Angeles/ San Diego/ San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency Chair Art Brown to Alex Kummant, Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer, re: Suspension of the *Coast Starlight* Service.

- C-9** January 26, 2008 letter from James B. Toy to Alexander Kummant, Amtrak President, re: Suspension of *Coast Starlight* Service.
- C-10** January 28, 2008 letter from Alex Kummant, Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer to RailPAC President Paul J. Dyson, re: Suspension of *Coast Starlight* Service.
- C-11** January 29, 2008 letter from Rail Passenger Association of California (RailPAC) President Paul J. Dyson to Alex Kummant, Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer, re: *Coast Starlight* Suspension.
- C-12** February 1, 2008 Amtrak Service Alert: Amtrak Restoring Partial *Coast Starlight* Service: Service Available Between Los Angeles and Sacramento.
- C-13** February 1, 2008 article in the *Sacramento Bee*, “Judge orders transit funds’ return: Ruling could add \$409 million to deficit, but lets \$779 million shift stand.”
- C-14** February 3, 2008 article in *San Francisco Chronicle*, “Riding That Train: Meet the people who seem to travel as many hours as they work on a long commute to Sacramento.”
- C-15** February 5, 2008 article in *Progressive Railroading Daily News*, “Federal FY09 budget proposes \$10.1 billion for transit, \$800 million for Amtrak.”