

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
FINAL Minutes of June 2, 2008
 Meeting held at
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	AUG 07	SEP 07	OCT 07	NOV 07	DEC 07	JAN 08	FEB 08	MAR 08	APR 08	MAY 08	JUN 08
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (A. Chavez)	C	P	-	C	N	P	P	C	P	C	P
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)
I. Mettee-McCutchon, Dist. 4 (C. Link)	N	P(A)	P(A)	N		P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	N	P
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee)	C	P	P(A)	C	M	P	P	C	P	C	P
G. Wilmot, Marina (J. Ford)	E	P	-	E	E	-	P	E	P	E	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey (C. Della Sala , W. Reichmuth)	L	P	P	L	E	P(A)	P	L	P	L	P
S. Villegas, Salinas (R. Russell, J. Serrano)	L	P(A)	P(A)	L	T	P(A)	P(A)	L	P(A)	L	P
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (Vacant)	E	P(A)	P	E	I	-	P(A)	E	-	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside, Vice Chair (D. Ingersoll, S. Bloomer)	D	P	E	D	N	P	E	D	P	D	P
R. Ortiz, Soledad (G. Gerbrandt)		E	P		G	P	P		-		P
R. Rubio, AMBAG (M. Griffin)		P	E			P	E		P		P
M. McCumsey, Caltrans District 5		E	P (VC)			P (TC)	P(TC)		E		P (TC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath)		P(A)	P(A)			-	-		P(A)		
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P	P			P	P		E		P
D. Bachman, Dep. Exec. Director		P	P			P	P		P		E
K. Hoschouer, Trans. Planner		P	P			P	P		P		P
C. Watson, Sr. Trans. Planner		P	P			P	P		P		E
A. Cook, Assoc. Trans. Planner		P	P			P	P		P		P

E – Excused
 A – Alternate
 VC – Video Conference
 TC – Teleconference

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman, Dave Potter, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Patricia Lopez	Monterey County Public Works	Chris Flescher	Rail Passenger Association of California
Bob Scales	Parsons	Debby Platt	City of Marina
Carole Dawson	City of Seaside	Mike Gallant	MST
Tom Treanor	Carmel Valley resident		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Sollecito/Wilmot/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of April 7, 2008, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received information on the Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account project nomination guidelines.

3.3 Received information about Steinbeck Steam Salinas Special postponement to 2009.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE: UPDATE ON MODE ALTERNATIVES AND SELECTION OF LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

M/S/C Wilmot/ Sollecito/unanimous

Approved the timing for the selection of a locally preferred alternative. Approval for the list of mode alternatives for the Monterey Branch Line has been deferred to the August committee meeting.

Transportation Planner Kristen Hoschouer presented an updated list of alternatives and timeline for selecting a locally preferred alternative. She reported that The Monterey Branch Line project is currently undergoing an alternatives analysis to assist the Transportation Agency with its selection of a preferred transit mode and limits of operation along the branch line corridor. Alternatives included enhanced bus, a “new combination” bus rapid transit alternative, and light rail transit.

The Committee voted to approve the selection of a locally preferred alternative before preparation of the environmental documents. This process differs from the prior approach to complete the draft environmental document before a locally preferred alternative is selected, due to Federal Transit Administration preferences.

Staff agreed to provide a report to the committee in August to provide additional information on the proposed alternatives and project phases being considered, including estimated costs for the "Phase 2" project segment between North Marina and Castroville, specifically costs for a Bus Rapid Transit alternative along a fixed guideway.

5. **CONTRACT: CALTRAIN COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION TO MONTEREY COUNTY PROJECT ASSISTANCE WITH NEGOTIATIONS**

Received information about the draft scope of work for a contract with Woodside Consulting Group to provide Caltrain Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County Project Assistance with Negotiations.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that a selection panel chose Woodside Consulting Group as the most qualified applicant for negotiations with Union Pacific, Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. Staff agreed to provide a final scope of work for this project to the committee as an item on its August consent agenda.

6. **CASTROVILLE UNDERCROSSING PROJECT UPDATE**

Received update on the Castroville bicycle/ pedestrian undercrossing project.

Patricia Lopez, Monterey County Public Works, reported on progress in planning for the Castroville bicycle/ pedestrian undercrossing project, as a sub-element of the Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project and the station in Castroville. Committee members recommended that the County look into Homeland Security grants to fund the project, due to its emergency access benefits.

7. **CALTRAIN EXTENSION PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Received update on the Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project schedule.

Ms. Hale gave the Committee an update on the schedule for the Caltrain Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project. The Transportation Agency is aiming for the start of service in 2011.

8. **RAIL~VOLUTION MOBILE WORKSHOP**

The Committee received information and provided input on Rail~Volution conference mobile workshop ideas.

Ms. Hale reported on a proposed mobile workshop to Monterey tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2008 and requested input on the itinerary. Based on the Committee's input, staff will be working on logistics for the event and will provide an update to the Committee once the details are finalized. Committee members asked staff to look into the feasibility of having tour participants ride the train to San Jose and catch the bus from there. Chair Potter also suggested there be a minimum number of participants to guarantee the tour.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

Committee member Armenta reported that the Monterey County Board of Supervisor's scheduled summer recess might conflict with the next scheduled Committee meeting time and asked staff to look into whether or not a rescheduled date is needed.

10. WATCH INTERCITY RAIL VIDEO

Committee members watched the intercity rail video.

The Capitol Corridor led the production of a video on Intercity Passenger Rail in California, featuring Supervisor Potter.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dave Potter adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.