

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Final Minutes of August 17, 2009*

Meeting held at

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

	SEP 08	OCT 08	NOV 08	DEC 08	JAN 09	FEB 09	MAR 09	APR 09	MAY 09	JUN 09	AUG 09
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (A. Chavez)	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>N</b>	<b>C</b>	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	-
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	P	<b>A</b>	P(A)	<b>O</b>	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)		<b>N</b>	P	P	<b>N</b>	P	<b>N</b>	P
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee)	P	<b>C</b>	E	<b>M</b>	<b>C</b>	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P
B. Delgado, Marina (K. Gray)	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey (C. Della Sala)	P	<b>L</b>	P	<b>E</b>	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	P(A)	<b>L</b>	P
S. Villegas, Salinas ( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano)	P	<b>L</b>	P	<b>T</b>	<b>L</b>	P(A)	-	<b>L</b>	-	<b>L</b>	-
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (R. Simonitch)	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>I</b>	<b>E</b>	-	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	-
R. Rubio, Seaside, Vice Chair (D. Ingersoll, <del>S. Bloomer</del> )	P	<b>D</b>	P	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	P	P(A)	<b>D</b>	-	<b>D</b>	P
R. Ortiz, Soledad (G. Gerbrandt)	P(A)		P (A)	<b>G</b>		P	E		P(A)		P(A)
J. Doughty, AMBAG (R. Deshazo)	P		P			P	-		-		-
M. McCumsey, Caltrans District 5	E		E			E	E		-		E
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath)	-		-			P	P(A)		-		P
B. Sabo, Airport	P		P			-	-		-		-
<b>STAFF</b>											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P		P			P	P		P		P
D. Bachman, Dep. Exec. Director	P		P			P	P		P		P
K. Hoschouer, Assoc. Trans. Planner	P		P			P	P		P		E
C. Watson, Sr. Trans. Planner	P		P			P	P		P		P
A. Cook, Assoc. Trans. Planner	P		P			P	P		P		P

E – Excused  
A – Alternate

VC – Video Conference  
TC – Teleconference

**1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kristi Markey	District 4 Alternate	Hunter Harvath	Monterey-Salinas Transit
Mike Gallant	Monterey-Salinas Transit	Sam Teel	Mo. Co. Hospitality Assoc.
Chris Flescher	Rail Pass. Assoc. of Cal.	Marlys Maher	Salinas Resident
A.J. Farrar	North Monterey County	Tom Treanor	Carmel Valley Resident
Michael Keller	Jakes Associates, Inc.	Bob Scales	Parsons

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Delgado/ Gerbrandt / unanimous  
Abstain: Rubio, Sollecito

**3.1** Approved minutes of the May 4, 2009 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Received letters and discussions between TAMC and the Monterey County Hospitality Association regarding the Monterey Branch Line Project.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE PHASING OPTIONS**

The Committee received and discussed Monterey Branch Line Phasing Options.

Bob Scales, Parsons Transportation, reported that the final chapter of the Monterey Branch Line Alternatives Analysis will highlight capital cost and operating cost estimates and ridership forecast for phasing of mode alternatives. After reviewing the Alternatives Analysis financial plan and discussing operating and maintenance costs with Monterey Salinas Transit, staff agreed it would be best to study a few phasing options for the Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit alternatives. He noted that the phasing options could reduce the initial capital cost of the Bus Rapid Transit from \$162 million to \$114.5 million and the Light Rail from \$211 million to \$128.5 million. Annual operating costs could also be reduced from \$7.9 million to \$3.6 million for Bus Rapid Transit and from \$6 million to \$4.3 million for Light Rail.

Committee members requested additional information on environmental impacts, safety issues, and a comparison of ridership to costs and revenues, which staff agreed to provide at the next committee meeting.

Bruce Delgado requested that staff make a presentation on the Alternatives Analysis and phasing options to the Marina City Council before asking for Transportation Agency Board of Directors action.

5. **COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION TO MONTEREY COUNTY PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County projec

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that progress on the commuter rail extension to Monterey County project since the last report to this Committee includes revisions to the federal application documents, progress on the advance/ hardship acquisition of a property in Salinas, and discussions regarding the Castroville station. She noted that on May 28, 2009, the Federal Transit Administration approved the Agency's request for a hardship finding for the advance acquisition of a property for the Salinas layover facility, and that a contract for the environmental review and acquisition would be on the upcoming Board agenda. She also noted that Site 2 for the proposed Castroville station has been dropped from further consideration in favor of Site 1, which is located outside of the Coastal Zone, and further information would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

6. **COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

M/S/C Rubio/Gerbrandt /unanimous

The Committee recommended that the Board approve the scope of work for the contract with Parsons Transportation Group to continue work on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project not to exceed the amount of \$27, 850, authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract amendment and changes to the contract if such changes do not increase the Agency's net cost, subject to approval by Agency Counsel; and authorize the use of no more that \$27,850 from federal earmark funding for the contract.

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that at the request of Caltrain staff staff has been in discussions with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Agency to run the proposed commuter rail service between Salinas and San Jose. She noted that the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Agency has requested that the Agency evaluate the design changes that would be required to accommodate the longer Capitol trains at the Salinas layover facility and other station platforms, as well as other considerations. She noted that the Capitol Corridor maintains a very positive relationship with Union Pacific, and that due to proposed electrification of the Caltrain line both operators would require a transfer in San Jose (Diridon station) for passengers traveling between Salinas and points north of San Jose. She added that appraisal work was also added to the proposed contract amendment for the Board agenda in the amount of \$4,500, for a total amount of \$32,350.

Chair Potter expressed concern that additional studies might mean the project never gets built. Staff noted that having the Capitols operate the service represented the best opportunity for the service and agreed to further brief Chair Potter.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

It was announced that the September Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2009 at the Portola hotel in Monterey, and that the January meeting would be held in Soledad.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.