

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)**

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Final Minutes of October 5, 2009*

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Adela Gonzales	City of Soledad	Steve McHarris	City of Soledad
Carole Dawson	City of Seaside	Mike Gallant	Monterey-Salinas Transit
Debby Platt	City of Marina	Marti Noel	Mo. Co. Office of Housing and Redevelopment
Chris Flescher	Rail Pass. Assoc. of Cal.		
A.J. Farrar	North Monterey County	Marlys Maher	Salinas Resident
Michael Keller	Citizen, Rail Consultant	Bob Scales	Parsons

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Sollecito/Villegas unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the September 21, 2009 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Received call for nominations for the eighth annual Transportation Agency Excellence Awards.

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**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. CITY OF SOLEDAD PRESENTATION REGARDING THE SOLEDAD RAIL STATION PLANNING AREA**

The Committee received a presentation from Steve McHarris, City of Soledad, and Senior Planner Christina Watson on the City of Soledad's rail station planning area and the proposed Coast Daylight service.

The Amtrak Coast Daylight project is a joint Caltrans/ Amtrak effort headed up by the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, chaired by Supervisor Dave Potter. The project calls for one daily round trip on the existing Union Pacific-owned tracks between downtown San Francisco and downtown Los Angeles to complement the existing Amtrak Coast Starlight service. In preparation for this service, the City of Soledad has been planning for a station, which includes the acquisition of land from Union Pacific and the construction of a station building in downtown Soledad.

Chair Potter noted that at the September 25, 2009 Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee meeting, Union Pacific indicated that a capacity study, once done, would have a shelf life of only six months, which is not connected to the political and practical reality for implementing major public works projects. Chair Potter also noted his longstanding support for a station in the City of Soledad, and lauded the City for its efforts to reintroduce rail service into the community.

5. **CASTROVILLE STATION SITE 1 CONCEPTUAL PLANS**

This item was postponed from the September 21, 2009 Rail Policy Committee meeting. Senior Planner Christina Watson reported that Agency staff and the County Office of Housing and Redevelopment are coordinating on the draft designs for Site #1. It was noted that there are fewer projected riders in the vicinity of Site #1, but that ridership at the station is drawn from a larger area and total ridership may not differ significantly between the two sites proposed, and that there are transit-oriented development opportunities adjacent to the site. Chair Potter noted his assertion early on in the planning process that a station in the Coastal Zone would be difficult to achieve.

Staff agreed to provide conceptual drawings for Site #1 to Committee Member Rubio.

6. **COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT CONTRACT AMENDMENT #8**

M/S/C Rubio/Villegas unanimous

Abstain: Matarazzo

The Committee recommended that the Board of Directors:

1. **APPROVE** the scope of work for the contract amendment with Parsons Transportation Group to continue work on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project not to exceed the amount of \$1,432,380 for the additional scope of work;
2. **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;
3. **AUTHORIZE** the use of no more than \$1,432,380 from Public Transportation Account funding for the contract amendment; and
4. **APPROVE** the sole source declaration to hire Parsons due to their "unique qualifications or experience" as this new work builds on the work they have already performed.

Committee Member Matarazzo recused himself from the discussion of this item.

Senior Planner Christina Watson reported that in May 2009 the California Transportation Commission approved a time extension of 18 months for \$4,520,000 of Regional Improvement Program funds, originally allocated on June 7, 2007, for the design of the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project, including plans for the Castroville, Pajaro, and Salinas stations. Pursuant to the Commission's Timely Use of Funds policy, the deadline to complete design activities to be reimbursed by this allocation is now December 31, 2010. Approval of the contract is necessary to commence the Planning, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) phase of the project so that the Agency does not lose these funds. Spending these funds in advance of Federal Transit Administration authorization to move into the Project Development phase means that the Agency is spending this funding "at risk" and that it will not count as a local match against a future federal grant.

Based on direction from the committee, staff agreed to add criteria to the contract scope of work that landscaping and irrigation plans incorporate plantings native to Monterey County.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Committee Member Sollecito announced that the Monterey City Council would take action on October 20, 2009 to select its choice for the locally preferred alternative for proposed service on the Monterey Branch Line. Associate Planner Kristen Hoschouer reported that staff would make a presentation to the City Council on the alternatives at the October 20, 2009 meeting.

Associate Planner Kristen Hoschouer also noted that staff is in the process of compiling a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the proposed service and alternatives, including responses to the questions raised at the September Board of Directors meeting. Staff intends to include the list in its Board agenda materials and presentation on selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative, which is scheduled for the October 28, 2009 Board meeting. Committee Member Rubio requested that staff emphasize the Rail Policy Committee action at its September 21, 2009 meeting in the presentation to the Board.

Committee Member Delgado announced that the Pacific Grove City Council plans to discuss the Monterey Branch Line at its October 21, 2009 Council meeting as well. Staff agreed to attend that meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.