

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

FINAL Minutes of February 2, 2009

Meeting held at

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

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

Elizabeth Caraker	City of Monterey	Kristi Markey	District 4 Alternate
Mike Gallant	Monterey-Salinas Transit	Hunter Harvath	Monterey-Salinas Transit
Diana Ingersoll	City of Seaside	Debby Platt	City of Marina
Bob Scales	Parsons	Tom Rowley	City of Monterey Resident
Chris Flescher	Rail Passengers Association of California		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Sollecito/ Parker/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the November 3, 2008 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

Abstained: Potter, Delgado

3.2 Approved the timeline for the selection of a consultant for the Monterey Branch Line environmental documents.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The Committee received and discussed a report on the Monterey Branch Line Administrative Draft Alternatives Analysis.

Kristen Hoschouer, Transportation Planner, reported that Parsons Transportation Group has completed the Alternatives Analysis for the Monterey Branch Line. She reported that the Alternatives Analysis, required for a project to qualify for federal “New Starts” capital funding, evaluates appropriate modal and alignment options for addressing mobility options in a given corridor. The study provides information to local officials on the benefits, costs, and impacts of alternative transportation investments developed to address the purpose and need for an improvement in a transportation corridor.

An Executive Summary of the Administrative Draft Alternatives Analysis was distributed at the meeting for the committee’s review and comment at its next meeting. Staff agreed to provide information as part of the Alternatives Analysis presentation comparing ridership and cost for each alternative under consideration.

Tom Rowley provided public comment supporting a bus alternative that incorporates a “one seat ride,” or trip that does not require a transfer for passengers between Monterey and Castroville, or Monterey and Salinas. Mr. Rowley expressed concern regarding the alignment of a fixed guideway through the Window on the Bay Park along Del Monte Boulevard in the City of Monterey.

5. FIELD TRIP TO THE ORANGE LINE AND SPRINTER

The Committee received a presentation from Kristen Hoschouer and Bob Scales, Parsons Transportation Group, on the Rail Policy Committee field trip to the Los Angeles Metro Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit and Sprinter Light Rail line in Oceanside, CA.

6. CALTRAIN EXTENSION TO MONTEREY COUNTY RIDERSHIP REPORT

The Committee received a report on the ridership estimates for the Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project, as well as a report on the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting and meetings with the Federal Transit Administration in Washington D.C.

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that in December, Parsons completed the “Caltrain Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County Ridership Validation Report”, and Agency staff forwarded the document to Federal Transit Administration staff for review. In January, Agency staff attended the annual Transportation Research Board meeting, and staff and Bob Scales of Parsons met with Federal Transit Administration staff to review the ridership analysis. Based on these discussions, staff expects to complete the Alternatives Analysis and environmental review of the proposed project and begin project development work in 2009. Staff estimates that the new service could start in 2012.

7. FIELD TRIP ON THE NEW JERSEY LIGHT RAIL LINE

This item was postponed to a future Rail Policy Committee meeting.

8. PROPOSITION 1A: HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The Committee received information about the High-Speed Rail bond (Proposition 1A).

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported on Proposition 1A, the “Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century”, which includes funding for intercity and passenger rail projects with direct connections to the High-Speed Rail network. The nearest connection to Monterey County would be the station in Gilroy. The Coast Daylight project is eligible for the intercity connecting services funding, and the Caltrain Extension project could be eligible for the non-intercity connecting services funding, competition for which is likely to be high. Staff will work with the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and the California Transportation Commission to secure some of the bond funds.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.