

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

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*FINAL Minutes of February 1, 2010*

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	<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>	<b>NOV 09</b>	<b>JAN 10</b>	<b>FEB 10</b>
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (A. Chavez)	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	-	P	-	P	<b>C</b>	P
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	P(A)	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P	P	<b>N</b>	P	<b>N</b>	P	P	E	P	<b>N</b>	P
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee)	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P	P	P	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P
B. Delgado, Marina (K. Gray)	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	P	P	<b>E</b>	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey (C. Della Sala)	P	P	<b>L</b>	P(A)	<b>L</b>	P	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	P
S. Villegas, Salinas ( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano)	P(A)	-	<b>L</b>	-	<b>L</b>	-	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	P
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (R. Simonitch)	-	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	-	P	P	P	<b>E</b>	P
R. Rubio, Seaside, Vice Chair (D. Ingersoll, <del>S. Bloomer</del> )	P	P(A)	<b>D</b>	-	<b>D</b>	P	P	P	P	<b>D</b>	E
R. Ortiz, Soledad ( <del>G. Gerbrandt</del> , S. McHarris)	P	E		P(A)		P(A)	-	P	P(A)		P(A)
J. Doughty, AMBAG (R. Deshazo)	P	-		-		-	-	-	-		-
M. McCumsey, Caltrans District 5	E	E		-		E	E	-	P (VC)		P (TC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath)	P	P(A)		-		P	P	-	P(A)		-
B. Sabo, Airport	-	-		-		-	P	-	-		-
<b>STAFF</b>											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P		P		P	P	E	E		E
D. Bachman, Dep. Exec. Director	P	P		P		P	P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Sr. Trans. Planner	P	P		P		P	P	P	P		P
K. Hoschouer, Assoc. Trans. Planner	P	P		P		E	P	P	P		P
A. Cook, Assoc. Trans. Planner	P	P		P		P	E	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. Introductions were given and a quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kristi Markey	Monterey Co. Dist. 4	Michael Powers	City of King
Rangineh Azimzadeh	County of Monterey	Doreen Liberto-Blanc	City of King
Jerry Hernandez	County of Monterey	Octavio Hurtado	City of King
Debra Cobb	Meyer Tomatoes	Bill Riley	Fort Hunter Liggett
Sam Teel	Mo. Co. Hospitality Assoc.	Chris Flescher	Rail Pass. Assoc. of Cal.
Scott Ottmar	City of Seaside	Eric Petersen	Salinas Resident
Bob Scales	Parsons	Marlys Maher	Salinas Resident

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

---

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Parker/Villegas/unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the November 2, 2009 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

---

**4. CITY OF KING RAIL STATION PLANNING AREA**

The Committee received a presentation from City of King City Manager Michael Powers and Bill Riley of Fort Hunter Liggett regarding the City of King's proposed rail station in the historic downtown planning area, as well as transportation needs for personnel stationed at Fort Hunter Liggett, southwest of King City.

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. The Coast Daylight service will provide an affordable, comfortable transportation alternative to limited and expensive air service and congested freeways. Currently, the planned stops in Monterey County are in Pajaro, Salinas, Soledad and the City of King. In preparation for this service, the City of King has been planning for the construction of a train station building in the historic downtown. Rail service to the City of King would provide transportation for City residents, tourists visiting the area, and troops training at Fort Hunter Liggett.

Director Armenta commented that Monterey-Salinas Transit and the Transportation Agency should work with Fort Hunter-Liggett to provide transportation serving the needs of the personnel stationed at the Fort Hunter-Liggett facility.

Chair Potter also commented that the Transportation Agency and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council could write support letters for the City of King rail station for grant funds, and requested that the City of King send a support letter for the Coast Daylight service, which is now seeking state funding for operations.

5. **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RAIL LINE ACQUISITION**

The Committee received a report from Luis Mendez, Deputy Director of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, on the Commission's efforts to acquire the Union Pacific Santa Cruz Branch Line between Pajaro and Davenport in Santa Cruz County.

In August 1999, the Commission approved pursuing acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way. The Commission has been negotiating with Union Pacific since 2001 as well as conducting the studies and analysis necessary to gain a full understanding of the condition of the property. In August 2008, the Commission negotiated to acquire the 31.8-mile branch rail line between Watsonville and Santa Cruz/Davenport from Union Pacific for \$14.2 million. Once the agreement is finalized, the railroad right-of-way, including 37 bridges and trestles, would be in public ownership and would thus be available as a transportation resource for the community in the future. The line is currently in use as a freight rail corridor and is being considered for a significant portion of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail project.

Mr. Mendez noted that the Commission is very supportive of both of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's rail projects and is dedicated to helping the Agency find funding for the Pajaro/ Watsonville commuter rail station.

Chair Potter agreed that interagency coordination on rail projects is helpful, and that commuter rail service at the planned Pajaro/ Watsonville station may help to raise support for future passenger rail service in Santa Cruz County, and offered the Commission the Agency's support on their rail line acquisition and associated projects.

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

The Committee received an update on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project. Senior Transportation Planner Christina Watson reported on a meeting with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Agency representatives, who offered general support for the proposed Monterey County extension.

Chair Potter commented that the Agency will need to make a decision on whether or not to pursue negotiations with the Capitol Corridor for operating the proposed Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County, especially in light of the timeframe for planning and constructing the California High Speed Rail project.

Ms. Watson noted that the March Committee meeting would include a presentation on revised designs for the commuter rail stations that fully accommodate Capitol Corridor

train sets. She also agreed to provide an update on the High Speed Rail project to the Committee in March.

There was no discussion on the ongoing advance/ hardship acquisition of a property in Salinas due to a potential conflict of interest on the part of Committee Member Matarazzo.

7. **MONTEREY BRANCH LINE PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report and discussed next steps for environmental review of the Monterey Branch Line Project.

Kristen Hoschouer, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that since the Board's selection of light rail transit as the locally preferred alternative in October, a notice of preparation for the environmental review of the project was distributed to cities and the public for comment. Transportation Agency staff has also been meeting with staff from each of the cities along the corridor to discuss alignment, station locations, and environmental concerns. A new set of conceptual drawings of the corridor and stations were completed and distributed to the cities for their review. She noted that staff is also in the process of completing a visual simulation of the project as requested by the Board of Directors, and the simulation will be presented to the Committee later this Spring.

Committee alternate Gowin inquired why the Coast Daylight project did not include a station stop in Castroville to connect to the Monterey Branch Line. Chair Potter agreed that he would bring this up at the next Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting.

8. **COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FOR 2010**

M/S/C Armenta/Sollecito/unanimous

The Committee re-elected Chair Potter to serve as Chair for the 2010-2012 terms.

M/S/C Sollecito/Parker/unanimous

The Committee re-elected Vice Chair Rubio as Vice Chair for the 2010-2012 terms.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

No announcements were made.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.