

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of September 13, 2010

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	SEP 09	OCT 09	NOV 09	JAN 10	FEB 10	MAR 10	APR 10	MAY 10	JUN 10	AUG 10	SEP 10
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (A. Chavez)	P	-	P	C	P	P	P	P(A)	P	C	P
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	P (A)	-	P (A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P	E	P	N	P	P	P	P	P	N	P
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee)	P	P	P(A)	C	P	P	P	P	P	C	P
B. Delgado, Marina (K. Gray)	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey (C. Della Sala)	P	P	P	L	P	P	P	P	P	L	P
S. Villegas, Salinas (R. Russell, J. Serrano)	P	P	P	L	P	P	P(A)	P	P	L	-
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (R. Simonitch)	P	P	P	E	P	P(A)	P	-	P(A)	E	P(A)
R. Rubio, Seaside, Vice Chair (D. Ingersoll, S. Bloomer)	P	P	P	D	E	P	P	P	P	D	-
R. Ortiz, Soledad (G. Gerbrandt, S. McHarris)	-	P	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P	-	P		P
J. Doughty, AMBAG (R. Deshazo)	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-
M. McCumsey, Caltrans District 5	E	-	P (VC)		P (TC)	E	-	P (TC)	P (TC)		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath)	P	-	P(A)		-	-	-	-	-		-
B. Sabo, Airport	P	-	-		-	P	-	-	-		P
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	E	E		E	P	P	P	E		P
D. Bachman, Dep. Exec. Director	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Sr. Transp. Planner	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P		P
K. Hoschouer, Assoc. Transp. Planner	P	P	P		P	P	E	P	P		P
A. Cook, Assoc. Transp. Planner	E	P	P		P	P	P	P	E		P
H. Myers, Assoc. Transp. Planning Engineer	-	-	-		-	P	-	-	E		-
M. Zeller, Assoc. Transp. Planner	-	-	-		-	-	P	-	P		P
E. Rodriguez, Sr. Admin.	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	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 made and a quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

A.J. Farrar	North Mo. Co. Resident	Chris Flescher	Rail Pass. Assoc. of Cal.
Theo Kosub	Monterey-Salinas Transit	Marlys Maher	Salinas Resident
Kristi Markey	Monterey County District 4	Sam Teel	Mo. Co. Hospitality Assoc.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/Parker/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 7, 2010 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received information on Federal Transit Administration Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the New Starts program.

3.3 Received information on the Final Program Environmental Impact Report on the Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train project.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE INDEPENDENT RIDERSHIP REVIEW AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

M/S/C Sollecito/Delgado/unanimous

The Committee discussed and provided direction regarding the solicitation for an Independent Ridership Review and Economic Analysis of the Monterey Branch Line corridor.

Kristen Hoschouer, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the California Transportation Commission requested further analysis on the economic benefits of the corridor and verification of the ridership forecasts before the Agency requests a funding allocation for engineering work. She also noted that the total contract amount for the independent economic and ridership analysis will be no more than \$50,000, to be funded from Proposition 116 rail bond funds remaining from the purchase of the Monterey Branch Line.

The committee directed staff to release the conclusions of the independent analysis to the media and public. Committee members Sollecito and Delgado requested that staff provide more quantitative information on the economic impact/benefits of the Monterey Branch Line to communicate to the public. Committee member Sollecito also requested that staff provide more background information on Coastal Commission staff comments supporting the light rail project.

5. COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION TO MONTEREY COUNTY PROJECT UPDATE

M/S/C Delgado/Armenta unanimous

The Committee received an update on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project, and provided direction regarding the selection of firms to provide project management and value engineering services.

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported on progress on the Commuter Rail Extension project since the committee's last report, including meetings with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority and other entities to discuss the project designs as well as initiation of the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Ms. Watson discussed the ad-hoc RPC committee tour of the Commuter Rail station sites, which Chair Potter noted was useful to see the stations, especially the relatively new site in Castroville.

Ms. Watson announced that a contract for Value Engineering on the project would be on the September 22, 2010 TAMC Board agenda for approval. Value Engineering is a process of reviewing the project designs with the goal of identifying ways to reduce the project costs.

Ms. Watson also discussed a proposal for Project Management Assistance Services to help staff set up project controls, and noted that staff planned to bring a contract for this work to the October 27, 2010 TAMC Board meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, suggested that committee members tour the rail line between Salinas and San Jose to get a better idea of the conditions and context of that rail line. There was interest among the Committee members. Ms. Hale announced that staff would email Committee members and set up the tour based on the committee's interest and availability.

Ms. Hale also briefed the committee on the City of Monterey's Waterfront Master Plan meetings. Public input regarding the proposed Branch Line project resulted in combining the proposed Park Avenue and NPS station sites into a single station at Sloat Avenue. There was also support for the potential for expanding Window on the Bay Park as part of the Project.

It was announced that the Train Riders Association of California (TRAC) "Cal Rail 2020" Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 14 in Sacramento, CA. Ms. Watson or A.J. Farrar can be contacted for more information on this event.

Ms. Hale reported that Bill Reichmuth, former Agency Executive Director, is recovering from surgery. The Committee recommended the Board of Directors sign a card for Mr. Reichmuth.

Kristen Hoschouer announced that staff would be making a presentation on the Monterey Branch Line project to the City of Monterey Oak Grove Neighborhood Association on September 15 at 7 pm at the Association's meeting location at Park Avenue and 2nd Street.

Marlys Maher requested information on the Agency's proposed 511 Traveler Information System for Monterey County. Staff reported that a presentation on the program would be made to the Board of Directors on September 22, 2010 and that all transportation modes would be covered by the program.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.