

AGENDA

TAMC RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Monday
March 7, 2011

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

3:00 P.M.

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the TAMC office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. **Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions.** A quorum for the voting TAMC Rail Policy Committee members consists of a minimum of 6 of the following voting members: Potter (Chair), Rubio (Vice-Chair), Armenta, Calcagno, Parker, Delgado, Sollecito, Villegas, Matarazzo, Ortiz.
If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your two alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA.**
Any member of the public may address the Rail Policy Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Rail Policy Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA: Approve the staff recommendations for **items 3.1-3.2** below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

- 3.1 **APPROVE** minutes of February 7, 2011 Rail Policy Committee meeting.
– Cook

Pages 6 - 8

- 3.2 RECEIVE** letter from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments describing the economic research that will be conducted in the Sustainable Communities Strategy as it relates to the Monterey Branch Line. - Hoschouer
Pages 9 - 11

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments will be conducting a Development Potential Analysis and Feasibility Analysis of Infill within the Monterey Branch Line corridor as part of AMBAG's Regional Implementation Plan for Smart Growth Development Strategies.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. RECEIVE** update on the Federal New Starts and Reauthorization Legislation. – Watson/ Schlesinger
Pages 12 - 13

The federal budget policy appears to inspire a moratorium on earmarks, less security for the highway trust fund with the elimination of the firewall protecting transportation dollars, and drastic proposed cutbacks in transportation funding for the current and future fiscal years. Securing federal funding for the rail projects will require supporting funding categories and grant programs in the transportation authorization bill. The administration and congress are moving quickly on the budget and authorization bill issues. Staff will give an update on the latest federal legislative activities at the meeting.

- 5. RECEIVE** presentation from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on the Santa Cruz branch line acquisition project. – Dondero
Pages 14 - 19

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission received California Transportation Commission approval of funds for the acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way in January 2011. George Dondero, Commission Executive Director, will attend the meeting to present on the Santa Cruz branch rail line acquisition project.

- 6. RECEIVE** presentation on the history and alternatives for Monterey Branch Line project. – Hoschouer
Pages 20 - 22

Since the Monterey Branch Line in 2003 there have been plans to reestablish rail/mass transit on the corridor. Kristen Hoschouer will provide a presentation on the history of the corridor and the alternatives studied in the past several years.

7. **RECEIVE** recap on the Coast Daylight train service field trip. – Cook
No Enclosures

Staff will give a verbal report on the March 3, 2011 Coast Daylight train service field trip.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:

Monday, April 4, 2011

3:00 p.m.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

by Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902

Monday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TEL: 831-775-0903

FAX: 831-775-0897

The next Rail Policy Committee agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon Tuesday, March 22, 2011, nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

Online at www.tamcmonterey.org

- C-1** December 2010 Monthly Performance report for Capitol Corridor and CA Intercity Passenger Rail Program
- C-2** January 21, 2011 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, “Caltrain faces \$30 million deficit; cuts inevitable”
- C-3** January 30, 2011 article in the *Monterey County Herald*, “Two die as Amtrak hits truck near Elkhorn Slough in north Monterey County”
- C-4** January 2011 Monthly Performance report for Capitol Corridor and CA Intercity Passenger Rail Program
- C-5** February 2, 2011 article in the *Monterey County Herald*, “Time capsule from 1949 unearthed in Pajaro”
- C-6** February 3, 2011 Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board meeting staff report, “Call for a public hearing for consideration of service suspensions and station closures for fiscal year 2012”
- C-7** February 3, 2011 article in the *Monterey County Weekly*, “Dash for Cash: Cities prepare battle plans as state plans to grab local bucks”
- C-8** February 3, 2011 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, “Caltrain proposes shuttering half its stations”
- C-9** February 8, 2011 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, “Despite historic financial woes, Caltrain CEO’s \$400,000 paycheck is state’s highest”
- C-10** February 8, 2011 article in the *Transport Politic*, “The White House stakes its political capital on a massive intercity rail plan”
- C-11** February 9, 2011 article on *publicceo.com*, “CalTrain and San Mateo County Transit District Fight ‘Inaccuracies’”
- C-12** February 9, 2011 article on *KQED*, “Caltrain blasts news report on CEO’s salary as inaccurate”
- C-13** February 9, 2011 article in *VTA Connections*, “VTA’s take on Caltrain”
- C-14** February 11, 2011 article in *Palo Alto Online*, “End of the line for Caltrain? How Silicon Valley could fare if the West’s second oldest passenger rail line were to curtail service”

- C-15** February 14, 2011 article in the *Progressive Fix*, “Budgeting for a Fast Train Future”
- C-16** February 15, 2011 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, “Fisher: Money for BART, why not for Caltrain”
- C-17** February 15, 2011 article in the *Gilroy Dispatch*, “VTA general manager: Redirect funding for Caltrain”
- C-18** February 15, 2011 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, “Republicans push for cutting funds for new rail lines”
- C-19** February 15, 2011 article in the *Sacramento Bee*, “Wi-Fi coming to Capitol Corridor trains”
- C-20** February 16, 2011 article in the *Transport Politic*, “Florida Governor Rick Scott rejects funding for Tampa-Orlando Intercity Rail Project”
- C-21** February 16, 2011 article in the *San Mateo Daily Journal*, “Majors frustrated by Caltrain plan”
- C-22** February 16, 2011 article on *Progressive Railroading*, “FTA touts transit funding in Administration’s FY2012 budget proposal”