

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of February 1, 2016

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15	APR 15	MAY 15	JUNE 15	AUG 15	SEP 15	NOV 15	JAN 16	FEB 16
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P	C	P(A)	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P(A)	N	P(A)	N	E	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee , J. Mohammadi)	P	C	P	C	P	P	C	P(A)	P	P(A)	P
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	-	E	P(A)	E	P	-	E	-	P	P	-
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	P	L	P	L	E	P	L	-	P	E	P
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair (R. Russell , J. Serrano)	P	L	E	L	P	P	L	P	P(A)	P	-
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	E	-	E	P	-	E	P	P	E	-
R. Rubio, Seaside (I. Oglesby)	P	D	P	D	P	E	D	P	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P		P		P	E		P	P	P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	-		-		-	P(A)		-	-	P(A)	-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	P		-		-	-		-	-	E	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	-		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-		-		-	-		-	-	-	-
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P		E		P	E		P	P	P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	-		P		P	P		P	P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	P	P	P
A. Green, Transp. Planner	-		P		E	-		-	-	-	-
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P	E		P	E	P	P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	E		P		-	-		-	P	-	-
V. Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	P	P	P
E – Excused	VC – Video Conference										
P(A) – Alternate	TC – Teleconference										

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Pete Rodgers	San Luis Obispo Council of Governments	Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
George Dondero	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	Paul Powers	Salinas resident

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Rubio/Markey/unanimous
Abstain: Ed Smith

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 11, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. COAST RAIL COORDINATING COUNCIL DUES PROPOSAL

M/S/C Markey/Rubio/unanimous

Pete Rodgers, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Administration Director, presented an overview of progress on the planned Coast Daylight train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Mr. Rodgers noted that planning for the Coast Daylight is a coordinated effort of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council that includes member agency representatives along the corridor, including SLOCOG, TAMC, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority, and the Peninsula Joint Powers Board (Caltrain). Mr. Rodgers reported that SLOCOG has been the administering agency for the Council for the last 23 years, and reported that the Council Policy Committee approved the establishment of a cost-sharing agreement between the member agencies with membership dues of \$1,500 per year to fund staffing activities for the Council.

Committee member Rubio asked for clarification on the \$1,500 annual dues. Mr. Rodgers clarified that it would be \$1,500 due annually from partner agencies.

Chair Potter noted that this would be a good investment to continue efforts to coordinate between agencies and encourage connectivity of rail services.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, noted that the dues would be used for reimbursement of State eligible expenses.

Committee member Smith asked for clarification about the Monterey Branch Line, which is listed as a connecting service to the planned Coast Starlight. He noted that the current Monterey City

Council is not supportive of having the light rail service end in the water front area. Chair Potter noted that bus rapid transit will be the first phase of transit service for the corridor.

5. SANTA CRUZ BRANCH LINE RAIL TRANSIT STUDY

The Committee received an update on next steps for the Santa Cruz Branch line rail transit feasibility study and the Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station project.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station is a connection to the Santa Cruz Branch Line and the second phase of the Rail Extension to Salinas project. She noted that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) acquired the 32-mile Santa Cruz branch line in October 2012 and completed a Rail Transit Feasibility Study in December 2015. The next steps for work on the rail line include a detailed environmental analysis and preliminary design work, as well as track maintenance to support current freight and passenger service on the line.

George Dondero, RTC Executive Director, reported on the RTC's transportation sales tax measure investment plan. The investment plan allocates 14% (approximately \$63 million over 30 years) of sales tax measure funding for rail projects in Santa Cruz County, with \$10 million for the Pajaro/ Watsonville Station. Mr. Dondero noted that initiating rail service in Monterey County with service at the Pajaro/ Watsonville station will change the story for rail travel in Santa Cruz County, as residents will begin to see the value of rail transportation first-hand.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reminded the Committee about the State and Federal grant funding applications for the Pajaro/Watsonville Station that staff submitted last year. On the State grant, Ms. Watson noted that ridership was the main feedback point. Ms. Watson reported that staff is working with the City of Watsonville to request that the Amtrak Coast Starlight stop at the Pajaro/Watsonville Station. This will help make the Station more competitive for State grant funding. Ms. Watson also noted that the main feedback point from the Federal application was that the Station itself did not have dedicated matching funds. RTC's local transportation sales tax measure funding allocation to the Pajaro/Watsonville Station will make the Station more competitive for Federal grant funding.

Chair Potter said he that he is glad to see rail in Santa Cruz kicking off, and noted that the ridership at the Pajaro/Watsonville Station will help build the case for State and Federal grant funding.

6. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension Project.

Ms. Watson reported that the next steps on the extension of Capitol Corridor service to Salinas include a federal environmental analysis of the improvements between Salinas and San Jose. She noted that traffic and air quality analysis relies on a ridership analysis of the full buildout six-round trip scenario. Ms. Watson shared a revised preliminary draft Capitol Corridor schedule for the six-round trip scenario.

Ms. Watson reported that the Capitol Corridor ran into an issue with Union Pacific in their plan to expand service between Oakland and San Jose from the current seven trains to eleven. She noted

if the plan is delayed, staff will look at the potential for extending two of the current seven trips serving San Jose. She also noted that the California State Transportation Agency is working on a statewide passenger rail agreement with Union Pacific.

Chair Potter reported that a meeting with new staff at Union Pacific in Roseville went well.

Ms. Watson reported that the meeting with City of Gilroy staff to review designs for the Gilroy station area will be rescheduled. However, she reported that there were a lot of unanswered questions on a recent environmental review of the corridor between San Jose and San Francisco meeting of the High Speed Rail's Local Policy Maker Group.

Mr. Dondero asked about the status of the Gilroy High Speed Rail station. Ms. Watson said the City of Gilroy is currently working on a Downtown Gilroy Station area plan.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.