

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of June 1, 2026

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

	JUN 25	JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25	JAN 26	FEB 26	MAR 26	APR 26	MAY 26	JUN 26
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P	N	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P	P	C	P	P	P(A) (VC)	E
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Viera , L. Gray)	P(A) (VC)	O	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson , K. Panni)	P(A) (VC)	M	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
K. Daniels, Dist. 5, (K. Craig)	P(VC)	E	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	C	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina (J. McAdams L. Visscher)	A	T	P	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	A	P(A) (VC)	L	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	P (VC)
E. Smith, Monterey (G. Garcia, M. Garcia , A. Easterling)	P	I	P	P	P	A	P	L	E	P	P(A) (VC)	A
D. Donohue, Salinas, (M. D'Arrigo)	A	N	P	P	P	A	P	E	P	P	P	P
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	P	G	P	E	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E	D	P (VC)	P	P	P
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P		P	P	P	A	P		P	P	P	P
A. Velazquez, Soledad (F. Ansaldo-Sanchez)	A		P	P (VC)	E	A	P (VC)		P (VC)	P (VC)	E	P (VC)
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)	P(A) (VC)		A	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
A. Fukushima, Caltrans District 5	A		P (VC)	A	A	A	A		A	A	P*	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)	A		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
STAFF	JUN 25	JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25	JAN 26	FEB 26	MAR 26	APR 26	MAY 26	JUN 26
O. Barajas, Transportation Planner	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	C	P*	A	A	A
R. Bigelow, Contracts and Grants	-	O	-	P* (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P (VC)	M	A	A	P (VC)	A	A	N	A	A	A	A
A. Cook, Principal Planner	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	P*	P	P
A. Guther, Assoc. Transp. Planner	P (VC)	E	P	A	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	P

A. Hernandez, Transp. Planner	A	T	A	A	A	A	P (VC)	L	A	A	A	P (VC)
J. Kise, Director of Finance and Admin	A	I	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	A	A	L	P (VC)	A	P	A
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	N	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
S. Linnevers Transp. Planner	-	G	-	-	-	-	-	D	-	p*	A	A
T. Muck, Executive Director	P		P	P	P	P	P		P	A	P	P
M. Park, Finance Officer/ Analyst	P (VC)		P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	A		A	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
M. Sheehan, Accounting Assistant	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	P (VC)	A
J. Strause, Senior Transp. Planner	A		P (VC)	A	A	P (VC)	P (VC)		P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P		P (VC)	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P
B. Wilson Transp Planning Intern	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	p*
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		P	P	E	P	P (VC)		A	P	P	A
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P (VC)		P	P	P	P	P (VC)		P (VC)	E	P	P

P = Present A = Absent P(A) = Alternate Present E = Excused (VC) = Video Conference * = New representative

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant, called the roll and confirmed a quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jasmine Mejia Cortez	District 1 Office	Margaret D'Arrigo	City of Salinas Alternate
Paul Dyson	Public	Rob Cunningham	Caltrans Division of Rail
Sahar Elias	District 4 Intern	Vibeke Norgaard	Sand City

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Oglesby / Carbone/ unanimous

- 3.1** Approved minutes of May 4, 2026, Rail Policy Committee meeting with an edit to delete the 5th bullet under item 4.
- 3.2** Received media clippings attached online.
- 3.3** Received update on the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station Project.
- 3.4** Received update on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project activities.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CENTRAL COAST RAIL CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

M/S/C Carbone / Donohue/ unanimous

Committee Member Carbone motioned to recommend that the Board of Directors approve a resolution supporting passenger rail pilot service in the Central Coast Rail Corridor for the 2028 Olympic Games, to include reference to Salinas Rail Station extension, and directed staff to provide resolution templates to cities. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Donohue.

The Committee received a report on implementation plans for new passenger rail service along the Central Coast Rail Corridor between the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles; and recommended that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution 2026-07 in support of pilot rail service connecting Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2028 Olympics.

Andy Cook, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council met on May 15, 2026 to discuss planning and implementation steps for new intercity passenger rail service in the corridor, reported on coordination with the intercity rail operating partner agencies, and noted that the next steps include advancing a proposal to support pilot passenger rail service in the corridor for the 2028 Olympic Games.

Mr. Cook noted that the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is coordinating Interagency discussions regarding a pilot intercity rail service between the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles for the upcoming 2028 Olympics and submitted a member request to Senator Laird for \$2 million in operations funding support.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Salinas Train Station and the King City Station have priority and other cities can adopt a resolution to focus on tourism with access to the Monterey Peninsula via train service.

Committee Member Oglesby noted Agency staff should present at the Mayor's Association Meeting. He stressed the importance of rallying the region to work together to advocate for rail service. Executive Director Muck replied that Senator Laird is expecting to see a budget set-aside for the 2028 Olympics; and SLOCOG is developing the operations plan that outlines expectations and funding options.

Committee Member Daniels noted that we should push for the pilot program and request funds from the state's Olympics budget. Mr. Muck responded that the state is expecting a transit operations funding shortfall after 2027.

Committee Member Donohue noted that the region needs to work together to get rail service that connects to Monterey-Salinas Transit to serve the entire region.

Committee Member Velazquez noted adding the Salinas Rail Station to the resolution strengthens the resolution.

Paul Dyson, member of the public, noted that a shift in travel patterns can be a strong case for coordinated strategy to request an increase in funding.

5. **SALINAS TRAIN STATION EXISTING SERVICES**

The Committee received information about existing services at the Salinas Train Station.

Blythe Wilson, Transportation Planning Intern, presented an overview of transit options at the Salinas Rail Station, including Amtrak Coast Starlight trains, Amtrak Thruway buses, Monterey-Salinas Transit service, and Flixbus (formerly Greyhound).

Ms. Wilson highlighted the following transit options:

- Amtrak Coast Starlight runs once daily in each direction between Seattle and Los Angeles.
- Amtrak Thruway Bus operating between San Jose and Santa Barbara stops at the Salinas station, providing connections to the Capitol Corridor and Pacific Surfliner.
- The only Monterey-Salinas Transit route that connects directly to the Salinas Intermodal Transit Center is Route 59, which connects to Gilroy with four buses per day in each direction.
- There is no consistent Flixbus schedule, but the company often provides one daily bus in each direction between San Jose and Los Angeles.

Committee Member Church asked for ridership data and noted that it is important to understand the demand that may exist. Executive Director Todd Muck noted that the agency will seek ridership statistics.

Lisa Rheinheimer noted that Monterey-Salinas Transit has seen a 20% ridership increase from last year, possibly due to gas prices increasing.

Committee Member Daniels noted that we need to make Salinas Station more user friendly for future riders to find their best travelling option easier.

Paul Dyson, member of the public, noted that it can be confusing when buying a rail ticket to ride the Amtrak Thruway bus and that recent legislation should enable a bus trip with no rail ticket.

6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported on the Monterey County Rail Extension Project. She noted that the 30% Salinas layover facility track, and structure plans were submitted to Union Pacific in April 2026 and expects submitting the revised 25% plans for the Gilroy track connections and roadway crossings to Union Pacific and Railroad in June 2026. She mentioned that staff working on preparing for demolition of a structure to allow for utility relocation along New Street. Ms. Watson noted that Agency staff have participated in discussions with Caltrans, Caltrain, and Capitol Corridor related to operations scenarios. All service scenarios depend on equipment availability and a track rights agreement with Union Pacific and Railroad.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner announced that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) proposed a Joint lunch meeting for September 21, 2026, 11am - 1 p.m., in Watsonville. Transportation Agency staff Maria Montiel will email Committee members for their availability.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced the next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2026 and there is no meeting in July.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.