

**FINAL MINUTES**

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**  
 SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY COUNTY  
 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Members: Luis Alejo (Chair),  
 Ed Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), Mary Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair),  
 Robert Huitt (Past Chair),  
 Chris Lopez (County representative), Michael LeBarre (City representative)*

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. \*\*\*

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>FEB 20</b>	<b>MAR 20</b>	<b>APR 20</b>	<b>MAY 20</b>	<b>JUN 20</b>	<b>AUG 20</b>	<b>SEP 20</b>	<b>OCT 20</b>	<b>NOV 20</b>	<b>JAN 21</b>
Luis Alejo, <b>Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 1 (L. Gonzales; J. Gomez)	P (TC)	P (TC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Michael LeBarre, <b>City Representative</b> King City (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Robert Huitt, <b>Past Chair</b> Pacific Grove (D. Gho)	P	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	A
Chris Lopez, <b>County Representative</b> Supr. Dist. 2	P	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	A
Mary Adams, <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 5 (Y. Anderson)	P	P(A)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)
Ed Smith, <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice</b> Monterey ( <del>D. Albert</del> , A. Renny)	P	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)

*TC: via teleconference; VC: via Zoom video conference*

P = Present

A = Absent

P(A) = alternate present

P (VC) = present via video conference

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Alejo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed, with four members in attendance (as noted above).

Staff present: Goel, Hale, Muck, Rodriguez, Watson, Williamson, Wright, and Zeller.  
Others present: Agency Counsel Katherine Hansen; Angela Untalon, TAMC Board member from the City of Greenfield ; Gus Khouri, Agency Legislative Consultant; and Todd & Mason Clark, Museum of Handcars Technology.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None this month.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**M/S/C** Smith/Adams/unanimous

On a motion by Committee Member Smith and a second by Committee Member Adams, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of November 4, 2020 and approve a cash incentive award of \$150 to Mike Zeller for excellent performance above and beyond his regular duties.

**4. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & DRAFT 2021 PROGRAM**

On a motion by Committee Member LeBarre and a second by Committee Member Adams, the committee voted 4-0 to receive an update on state and federal legislative issues and recommend the Board of Directors adopt the 2021 legislative program.

Gus Khouri, Agency legislative analyst, presented updates on state legislative activities. Mr. Khouri extended his appreciation to the Board for their leadership on the successful grant allocation for State Route 156. He reported that the state budget will be released on January 8, at 11 am. He noted that the State's shelter-in-place orders and lower gas consumption will impact the budget. Chair Alejo asked if the Governor's \$4.5 billion proposed COVID recovery package includes funding for transportation. Mr. Khouri replied that he would check on it (it includes funding for electric vehicle charging networks).

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, provided a federal legislative update and presented the final 2021 legislative program. She reported that the federal transportation legislative issues facing the incoming Biden administration include reauthorization of the transportation bill, which expires on September 30, 2021. She noted that President-elect Biden nominated former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg as the Secretary of Transportation. She also reported that the COVID-19 relief legislation that passed on December 20, 2020, includes \$14 billion for transit, \$10 billion for highways, and \$1 billion for Amtrak.

Committee members expressed their support for the addition of the modifications to the Brown Act, to allow for greater flexibility in holding virtual meetings.

**5. COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE SURVEY & IMPACT ON FY 21/22 BUDGET**

On a motion by Committee Member Smith and a second by Committee Chair Alejo, the committee voted 4-0 to approve a 2% Cost of Living (COLA) increase for Agency employees in the proposed budget for FY 21/22.

Rita Goel, Director of Finance & Administration, noted that at the November 2020 Executive Committee meeting Agency staff reviewed the assumptions for the FY 21/22 budget. A 2% cost of living allowance was proposed in order to maintain staff morale and support staff retention. The committee directed staff to conduct a cost of living survey of other jurisdictions and requested the fiscal impact of a 2% and 3% COLA. A majority of the jurisdictions responding implemented a cost of living adjustment between 2% and 3.5% in two of the three survey years (FY 19/20, 20/21, 21/22), and Pacific Grove adopted a single year 4.5% COLA. Most have not finalized a cost of living allowance for FY 21/22.

Ms. Goel reported that the cost of a 2% cost of living allowance (COLA) for Agency employees is estimated to be \$40,645. A COLA 3% is estimated to cost \$60,968. The elimination of 2 part-time intern positions would cover the cost of a 2% COLA. Vice Chair Smith expressed his interest in saving the Agency reserve for one time expenditures rather than ongoing salaries.

**6. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE RECREATIONAL USE HANDCAR PROPOSAL**

On a motion by Committee Member LeBarre and seconded by Committee Member Smith, the committee voted 4-0 to receive the revised detailed proposal from the Museum of Handcar Technology for an interim use of the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way for a recreational enterprise in 2021; and provided direction to staff to begin activities required to negotiate a lease agreement.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the lease agreement with the Museum of Handcar Technology for a trial use of the Monterey Branch Line for a recreational use approved by the Board in 2020 was executed but never implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has now expired. The Museum of Handcar Technology has submitted a new proposal for a 30-day trial run, in a slightly different location, in the summer or fall of 2021. The new proposed staging location at Palm Ave & Marina Drive/ Del Monte in Marina will move the storage containers out of the Coastal Zone and onto a stretch of tracks that is flatter for the start of operations onto the branch line.

Vice Chair Smith inquired as to conflicts with the Monterey-Salinas Transit SURF! Busway. Staff noted that Palm Avenue at Marina Drive is the location for one of the busway stops but that project will not be built until well after the 30-day trial run. Todd Clark noted that they were contemplating a future service north of the proposed trial

run, but that would require a separate TAMC agreement. He also noted in response to a question from Chair Alejo that the storage facilities for the trial run would be temporary. In response to a question from Committee member Adams, Mr Clark noted that the trial run in Nevada, which operated on a branch line similar to the Monterey line, was extremely successful, selling out in 2 hours.

**7. TAMC DRAFT AGENDA**

Deputy Executive Director Muck reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of January 27, 2021. After Executive Committee discussion, the following are some of the items will be considered on the regular agenda:

- Transportation Excellence Awards
- Election of 2021 officers
- Legislative update and Final 2021 Program
- 2022 Regional Transportation Plan

On the consent agenda, the Board will consider actions on several items including:

- TDA Triennial Audits
- Monterey Branch Line Lease Agreement
- Surf Busway-Capital Investment Grant Consultant Funding
- Summary of 2020 Environmental Document Review Program
- RFP Scenic Route 68 Design
- Salinas Rail Construction Management Contract Amendment
- Monterey County Rail Extension Property Acquisition

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None this month.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Alejo adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.