

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of March 4, 2024

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

Alternate locations: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933 - Supervisor Askew's Office

11140 Speegle Street, Castroville CA, 95012 Supervisor Church's Office

168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901, Supervisor Alejo's Office

	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN 23	JUL 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23	NOV 23	JAN 24	FEB 24	MAR 24
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez , J. Gomez)	C	P	P	C	N	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P	C	P(A) (VC)
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A	P(A) (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson, E. Mora)	N	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N		P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	M	E	A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	C	P(A) (VC)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
B. Delgado Marina (vacant)	L	A	A	L	E	A	A	A	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	L	P	A	L	T	P	A	P	P	E	L	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	E	E	P	E	I	A	P	P	P	P(A)	E	P
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	D	A	A	D	N	A	A	A	P	A	D	P
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)		P	P		G	P	P	P	A	P		A
F. Cabrera, Soledad (A. Velazquez)		P	P			P	P	A	A	P		P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)		E	P			E	A	E	P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)		P(A)	P(A) (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5		A	P (VC)			A	A	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)		P (VC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)		P(A)	P (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A)		P(A) (VC)

STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director		E	P			E	P	P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Director of Planning		P	P			P	P	P	P	P		P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	E	E	P (VC)	E		P (VC)
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P	P			P	P	P	P	P		P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	P (VC)	A	P	P		E
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	A		P (VC)
A. Guther, Assis. Transp. Planner		P	E			P	P	P	P	P		P
A. Sambrano Transp. Planner							P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P		P (VC)

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

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3: 00p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tarah Gatten	Caltrans	Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC
Riley Gerbrandt	SCCRTC	Mark McLaren	Public
Cheryl Childs	Mark Thomas	Etty Mercurio	Mark Thomas
Monique Fountain	Elkhorn Slough	Amanda Dugar	LSA Consultant

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Anderson/ Courtney

Abstentions: Smith, Sandoval, Carbone

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 8, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

3.3 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ZERO EMISSION RAIL AND TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Santa Cruz County Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, introduced Riley Gerbrandt, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCRTC) staff. He noted that the Santa Cruz Branch Line is a continuous transportation corridor that spans approximately 32 miles of Santa Cruz County from the community of Pajaro in northern Monterey County up to Davenport. He noted that the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Purpose and Need statement was developed using information derived from the 2021 Alternatives Analysis/Network Integration Study. Mr. Gerbrandt noted that the project's fundamental purpose is to support and improve equitable multimodal transportation options in Santa Cruz County.

Committee members provided the following feedback on the project update:

- Consider park and ride lots to provide access to drivers.
- Consider contactless payments.
- Calculate health benefits, new job creation.

5. ELKHORN SLOUGH RESILIENCY PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor climate resiliency project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Transportation Agency received \$1,000,000 to initiate planning work on the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor climate resiliency project. She noted that staff met with representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve to observe the overtopping of the Union Pacific Railroad rail tracks in January 2024. Ms. Guther noted that at king tide, there is a significant difference in water surface elevation between the west and east sides of the tracks. Ms. Guther noted that the rail line will be included in the future planning work that TAMC is pursuing for the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor, which will evaluate and prioritize alternatives for the rail line.

Committee members provided the following feedback on the project update:

- Consider inviting Union Pacific to participate early in the project discussions.
- Consider gathering more data on potential delays to freight and passenger train trips caused by king tides, sea level rise, and storm surge.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the proposed Pajaro/Watsonville station will be the connection point for Santa Cruz to new passenger rail service on the Coast mainline tracks between Salinas and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as a hub on future round-the-bay service. She noted that in December 2023, TAMC released a Request for Proposals that received no submissions. Staff re-released the Request for Proposals after more outreach to potential consultants. Ms. Guther noted that proposals are due to TAMC April 4, 2024, and staff anticipates bringing a contract to the TAMC Board for approval on May 22, 2024, for project activities to begin in June 2024.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Committee had an informal meeting with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission in October and talked about having another meeting in approximately six months. Alissa Guther noted that TAMC staff would coordinate with SCCRTC staff to set up another meeting after the Board approves the consultant contract and after consultant activities have begun.

7. COAST CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Executive Director Todd Muck and Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council met on February 16 in Oakland and discussed Senate Bill 125 funding being secure, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital program application, Federal Rail Administration Corridor Identification Program, Intercity Rail Passenger Rail coordination efforts, and a potential Rail Summit in San Diego in fall 2024.

Committee Member Potter noted that it was good to have state representatives at the meeting.

Committee Member LeBarre noted that the Committee received a briefing on the federal Corridor ID programs from Chad Edison and Shannon Simonds. He mentioned that California is so far ahead of other states and that they are anticipating completing the Service Development Plans within months.

8. RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Committee held elections for Chair and Vice Chair for 2024-25.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year.

M/S/C Sandoval /Cabrera / superseded

Committee Member Sandoval made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Cabrera, to nominate Mike LeBarre, Chair and nominate Ed Smith, Vice Chair for the Rail Policy Committee. Committee member Smith thanked him and declined his nomination and made a substitute motion.

M/S/C Smith / Delgado / unanimous

Committee Member Smith made a substitute motion, seconded by Committee Member Delgado, to nominate Mike LeBarre, Chair and nominate Dave Potter, Vice Chair for the Rail Policy Committee.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None this month.

7. **ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.