



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

Rail Policy Committee

Monday, September 11, 2023
****3:00 PM****

MEETING LOCATION

Voting members must attend a physical meeting location to count towards quorum
55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901
Transportation Agency Conference Room

Alternate Locations with Zoom Connection Open to the Public

2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933
Supervisor Askew's Office

11140 Speegle St., Castroville CA, 95012
Supervisor Church's Office

Members of the public & non-voting members may join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/654778900?pwd=L2daellZTW5NSDZMQ2RSY1hJVlpGZz09>

OR

By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 654 778 900

Password: 506977

Please note: If all committee members are present in person, public participation by Zoom is for convenience only and is not required by law. If the Zoom feed is lost for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted, but the meeting may continue at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County 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 Agency Secretary to make an 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 is 7 of the following members: Adams, Askew, Alejo, Chavez, Church, Hawthorne, LeBarre, Medina-Dirksen, Oglesby, Potter, Sandoval and Smith.

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Board on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Board for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00 pm the Monday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Board before the meeting.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: 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 staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, 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.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed 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 the Rail Policy Committee meeting of August 7, 2023.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the August 7, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

4. **RECEIVE** update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

- Alissa Guther, Christina Watson

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project since the last report to this

Committee include a meeting with Caltrans staff to discuss Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding allocation and contract schedule and a webinar to learn more about Senate Bill 125 TIRCP formula funding allocation.

5. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

- Alissa Guther, Todd Muck

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on August 18 in Santa Cruz. The working group is scheduled to meet virtually on September 15.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**
7. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting

Monday, October 2, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

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

A quorum of voting members is required to be present to hold this meeting.

There will be a zoom link for hybrid participation.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator
Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Important Meeting Information

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. 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 review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
www.tamcmonterey.org
55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Board may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any support papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel
Meeting Date: September 11, 2023
Subject: **Draft August Rail Policy Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of August 7, 2023.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the August 7, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:**DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_August_2023_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of August 7, 2023

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901 - Transportation Agency Conference Room
 Alternate location: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933 - Supervisor Askew's Office and
 11140 Speegle Street, Castroville CA, 95012 Supervisor Church's Office

	SEP 22	OCT 22	NOV 22	DEC 22	JAN 23	FEB 23	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN	JUL	AUG
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	A	C	P(A)	N	P(A)	P	C	P	P	C	N	P
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	P(A)	A	A	O	A	P	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson , E. Mora)	P(A)	N	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	N	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N		P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	P(A)	C	P(A)	M	E	A	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	M	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	E	A	P	E	P	P	E	E	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	L	P	E	P	P	L	A	A	L	E	A
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	P	L	A	T	P	A	L	P	A	L	T	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	P	E	P	I	P	P	E	E	P	E	I	A
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder, K. Cruz)	P(A)	D	P(A)	N	A	A	D	A	A	D	N	A
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P		P	G	P	P		P	P		G	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Cabera, D. Wilcox)	A		A		P	P		P	P			P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)	P		P		P	P		E	P			E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	P(A)		P(A)		A	P(A)		P(A)	P(A) (VC)			P(A) (VC)
J. Xiao, Caltrans District 5	P		P		P	P		A	P (VC)			A
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)	P(A)		P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	P (VC)			P(A) (VC)
STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director	P		P		P	P		E	P			E
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P		P		P	P		P	P			P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P		P		E	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)

M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P		P		P	P		P	P			P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		P		P	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P		P		A	P		P	P (VC)			P (VC)
A. Guther, Assis. Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	E			P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A		P		A	P		E	A			A
J. Strause, Transportation Planner	A		A		A	A		A	A			P
A. Hernandez Assis. Transp. Planner						P		A	A			A

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 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Potter	City of Carmel, from Boston	Jasmine Mejia-Cortez	Monterey County
Roland Lebrun	Public	Shannon Simonds	Caltrans
Linda Gonzalez	Monterey Couty	Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC
Tarah Gatten	Caltrans		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Alejo/Oglesby /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the May 1, 2023, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

3.3 Received update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

3.4 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. POTENTIAL FIELD TRIPS/TOURS

The Committee provided direction to staff regarding potential field trips, such as a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit system and/or a visit to the Caltrain electric train and the Gilroy Caltrain station.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that staff attempted to arrange a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system, but only three elected officials confirmed their availability for the date, so the tour was deferred until a larger group is available, as the tour entails a significant level effort for staff. Ms. Guther noted that the trip would require a multi-day commitment to accommodate the travel between Salinas and Larkspur or San Rafael (a 3 to 4 hour drive each way) as well a ride north on the SMART train, a visit to the operations center, and a ride back south on the SMART train. Staff would arrange a hotel near the southernmost train station.

Ms. Guther mentioned that another tour was suggested to visit the Gilroy train station and the Caltrain electric trains at the Diridon station in San Jose and meet with elected officials on the Caltrain Joint Powers Board. She noted that this trip would require an all-day commitment to accommodate travel and meetings with elected officials in Gilroy and in San Jose.

Committee Member Oglesby asked about the timeline for round-the-bay service. Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that one of the goals for the tour was interagency relationships with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to foster coordination and support for near-term projects such as the Pajaro train station, that will lead to the future round-the-bay service in the full buildout scenario of the Network Integration Study adopted by the Board in 2021.

Committee Member Alejo mentioned that he is interested in the Sonoma visit if it can happen in October 2023; if not, he would not be available again until after April 2024.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Committee's priority is to develop a strong relationship with SCCRTC elected officials and directed staff to coordinate a sit down in person meeting to discuss mutual interests between TAMC and SCCRTC. This meeting could be held in the Pajaro/Watsonville area as this is the location that is a key connector for the rail lines linking Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. He noted one discussion topic at that meeting might be a joint field trip to Sonoma.

Committee Member Chavez noted that focus on Thursday or Friday are likely best in October/November.

The Committee did not express interest in a group visit to the Gilroy Caltrain station nor to see the electric trainsets.

5. **PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that in April 2023, the California State Transportation Agency approved a \$2.3 million grant to cover the cost of California Environmental Quality Act and National Environment Policy Act documentation. She noted that this documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for the design update and right of way work. Ms. Guther noted that the total estimated cost of pre-construction work for the Pajaro multimodal Station Project, which includes environmental review, design, and right of way, is \$19.5 million. She mentioned that the schedule for allocation of funds, a request to proposals, and a contract to begin this work is as follows:

- October 2023: California Transportation Commission approval of funding allocation
- October 2023 TAMC Board: approve Request for Proposals, to be circulated November-December 2023
- February 2024 TAMC Board: approve contract for work to begin March 2024

Committee Member Smith asked about whether flooding would be evaluated in the environmental documents. Committee member Alejo noted that the station was flooded in January. Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that the floodplain is included in the environmental review.

Ms. Guther added that she has been in contact with Monterey County staff about climate resiliency efforts and goals in the Pajaro area.

6. AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION RAIL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Committee received a report on the 2023 America Public Transit Association Rail Conference.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that she and Alissa attended the (APTA) Rail Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with TAMC Board Chair LeBarre. Ms. Watson noted that the summary of sessions was attached to the agenda report. Chair LeBarre mentioned one session that stood out was the one on hydrogen technology, noting that the state is looking to do a big rolling stock acquisition in the year 2030.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that the next committee meeting will be on September 11, 2023.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: September 11, 2023
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

SUMMARY:**FINANCIAL IMPACT:****DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [August 16, 2023 article in Trains, "Santa Cruz commission approves full funding for rail study: Report to define passenger project for 22-mile corridor to cost \\$9.2 million, take two years"](#)
- [August 17, 2023 news release from Caltrain, "Caltrain to Pilot First-in-the-Nation Bi-Level Dual Electric and Battery Powered Train to Expand Zero-Emission Service"](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee

From: Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, Christina Watson, Director of Planning

Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Subject: **Pajaro Multimodal Station Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project since the last report to this Committee include a meeting with Caltrans staff to discuss Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding allocation and contract schedule and a webinar to learn more about Senate Bill 125 TIRCP formula funding allocation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work will begin in 2024 with secured state funding for environmental review. In April 2023, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) approved a \$2.3 million grant to cover the cost of California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act documentation. This documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for next phases of the project. The total estimated cost of pre-construction work for the Pajaro Multimodal Station Project, including environmental review, design, and right of way, is \$19.5 million. The project is an eligible candidate for SB 125 TIRCP formula funds.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 2 is the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub. The proposed Pajaro/Watsonville station will be the connection point for Santa Cruz County to new passenger rail service on the Coast mainline tracks between Salinas and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as a hub for future round-the-bay service.

After a successful application to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), TAMC received \$2.3 million to fund environmental review documentation. The schedule for allocation of funds, a request for proposals and a contract to begin this work is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| October California Transportation Commission (CTC) | Approve funding allocation |
| October TAMC Board | Approve Request for Proposals |
| February TAMC Board | Approve contract |

TAMC staff has had the following meetings regarding the Pajaro station since the last report to the Committee:

- August 21, 2023: Meeting with Caltrans TIRCP coordinator
- August 28 and September 7, 2023: SB 125 Guidelines Webinar

On July 10, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law (**web attachment 1**), which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). TAMC is slated to receive \$44.5 million over two years in TIRCP formula funds and \$8 million over five years for the ZETCP. All funds have an expenditure deadline of June 30, 2028. The Pajaro station's pre-construction activities are an eligible candidate for the TIRCP formula funds.

Staff will present a draft itinerary for an October 13, 2023 lunch meeting with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) in Pajaro/Watsonville at the meeting.

Staff will provide a verbal update on all activities at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Senate Bill 125 transit program website](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, Todd Muck, Executive Director
Meeting Date: September 11, 2023
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

SUMMARY:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on August 18 in Santa Cruz. The working group is scheduled to meet virtually on September 15.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail project capital and operation costs are under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) is a multi-agency advisory and planning organization focused on improving the rail corridor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area along the California Central Coast. Members of the Council include all regional transportation planning agencies along the Central Coast – all of which have a strong interest in improving rail service and the rail infrastructure along the Central Coast’s portion of the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor.

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on August 18 in Santa Cruz; they discussed issues such as the new Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) formula funds, a significant source of new funds that could be used for projects to support the implementation of new rail service on the Coast corridor. **Web attachment 1** is the agenda for that meeting. Staff who attended the Policy meeting will provide a verbal update at the Committee meeting.

The next Policy meeting is planned for October 20 in Santa Barbara. The working group is scheduled to meet virtually on September 15. **Web attachment 2** is the updated meeting schedule.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [August 18 CRCC Policy meeting agenda](#)

2. [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)