



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, March 3, 2025

****2:00 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*

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

*248 Main Street, Soledad, CA 93960
Mayor Velazquez, Soledad City Hall*

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: Askew, Alejo, Carbone, Church, Daniels, Delgado, LeBarre, Oglesby, Sandoval, Smith and Velazquez.

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 Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed two (2) 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 Committee 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 Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Committee 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 the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for February 3, 2025.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the February 3, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

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

- Christina Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee and meetings with Caltrans and the Federal Railroad Administration about the Corridor ID program.

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

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), and Santa Cruz Metro on design options and with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Caltrans staff to discuss the federal Corridor ID funding program.

6. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Christina Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections), and right-of-way negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025, at 2:00 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 five (5) 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, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: March 3, 2025
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for February 3, 2025.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the February 3, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_February_2025_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of February 3, 2025

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~~
 248 Main St., Soledad, CA 93960 Mayor Velazquez's Office

	FEB 24	MAR 24	APR 24	MA Y 24	JUN 24	JUL 24	AUG 24	SEP 24	OCT 24	NOV 24	JAN 25	FEB 25
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	C	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	C	P(A) (VC)	N	P	P	N	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A	P (VC)	O	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	O	E	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson , E. Mora)	N	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)	M	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	M	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
K. Daniels, Dist. 5, (TBA)	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	A	E	A	E	E	P(A) (VC)	A*	P
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E
B. Delgado, Marina (J. McAdams)	L	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)	T	A	E	T	A	A	P (VC)
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	L	P	P	L	P	I	P	P	I	P	P	A
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	E	P	A	E	A	N	A	A	N	P	A	A
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	D	P	P	D	P	G	P	P	G	P	P	P
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)		A	A		E		A	A		A	A	A
A. Velazquez, Soledad (F. Ansaldo-Sanchez)		P	E		E		P	P		P	A*	P (VC)
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5		P (VC)	A		A		P (VC)	P (VC)		A	A	P(VC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A)		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	A	A

STAFF	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
T. Muck, Executive Director	C	P	P	C	P	N	E	P	N	P	P	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	A	P	P	A	P	O	P	P	O	P	P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	N	P (VC)	E	N	E	M	P (VC)	P (VC)	M	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	C	P	E	C	E	E	P	P	E	E	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	E	E	E	E	P	E	P (VC)	P (VC)	E	P (VC)	P (VC)	E
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	L	P (VC)	A	L	P	T	A	A	T	P	A	P (VC)
A. Guther, Transp. Planner	L	P	P	L	P	I	P	P	I	P	P	P
A. Sambrano Transp. Planner	E	P (VC)	P (VC)	E	P	N	P (VC)	P (VC)	N	A	A	A
J. Strause, Associate Transp. Planner	D	E	E	D	E	G	P	P	G	A	A	A
J. Kise, Director of Finance & Administration		A	P		P		A	P		A	A	A
M. Park, Finance Officer/Analyst		-	-		P		P	P		A	A	A

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

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Carbone called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Cunningham Caltrans

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Daniels/Church/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of January 13, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received Media Clippings

3.3 Received Correspondence

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN & CORRIDOR ID UPDATES

The Committee received a presentation on the 2024 State Rail Plan and update on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) process.

Rob Cunningham, Caltrans Division of Rail, reported that the Rail Plan outlines a long-term vision to guide incremental service planning to support development of a statewide network, a 10-year service and capital plan representing phased goals for advancing network design, and a 5-year capital program supporting near-term funding and programming needs. He noted that California State Rail Plan provides solutions for congested corridors across California and identifies how the State will prioritize investments that provide Californians with more frequent, reliable rail service to more destinations, with travel times that are competitive with traveling by air and auto. Mr. Cunningham noted that projects in the near-term scenario with secured funding include the Salinas rail extension, positive train control, and a central coast layover facility. He noted there are challenges with implementing the 2035 mandate for zero-emission train equipment on the Coast Line.

Mr. Cunningham noted that Caltrans is working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and regional partners (TAMC, SCCRTC, and SLOCOG) to develop a scope, schedule, and budget for a Service Development Plan for the Central Coast Corridor via the Corridor ID program. The service Development Plan is expected to begin late spring/early summer. He noted that even if federal funding is not available for these projects in the near term, Caltrans is committed to the process for moving the projects through the planning stages.

Committee Member Delgado asked for a description of the central coast layover facility. Mr. Cunningham replied that the San Louis Obispo Layover Facility expansion would allow for more service on the Coast.

Committee Member Velazquez asked about the cost estimate for the mid/long term projects at \$250 billion. Mr. Cunningham replied that it is an estimate for all projects statewide in the mid- and long-term list, including High Speed Rail.

5. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Package 2 and 3, and right-of-way appraisals for Union Pacific Railroad-owned property. Ms. Watson noted that since the last report to this committee, the design team has continued to coordinate design reviews with Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Salinas. Ms. Watson noted that staff will be requesting extension on the right-of-way funds at the March California Transportation Commission meeting.

Mike Zeller, TAMC Director of Programming & Project Delivery, reported that the team continues to work through the Union Pacific process for identifying the property rights that TAMC may need to acquire from Union Pacific Railroad.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro Multimodal Station project held meetings with Caltrans staff to discuss the federal Corridor ID funding program. Ms. Guther noted that she gave a presentation to the Watsonville Rotary Club last month and attended a Pajaro disaster recovery alliance meeting. Ms. Guther noted that Transportation Agency staff continue to work to set up a meeting with the Army Corps to discuss levee repair work. She noted that she would post links to relevant nearby work to the Pajaro project website.

Committee Member Church expressed concerns about potential cost increases due to key cost drivers being forgotten in early estimates. Executive Director Todd Muck replied that adding certain components to the station such as transit access could increase the cost of the station project but may also make the project eligible for additional fund sources.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

8. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Carbone adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: March 3, 2025
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

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

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [January 30, 2025 article in the Monterey Herald, "Caltrain layover facility in Salinas continues path to construction: A crew base building and other relevant facilities will be situated less than a half mile west of the Salinas train station" \(Reposed on MassTransit on February 3, 2025, "Caltrain layover facility in Salinas continues path to construction: The Transportation Agency for Monterey County continues to forge a path to extend passenger rail service via Caltrain past its southernmost point, currently in Gilroy, to Salinas"\)](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: March 3, 2025
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:

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee and meetings with Caltrans and the Federal Railroad Administration about the Corridor ID program.

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 CRCC Policy Committee met on February 21, 2025 in Santa Barbara and discussed the following:

- Senate Bill 125 fund allocations;
- Legislative Update;
- 2024 California State Rail Plan;
- Positive Train Control project;
- Federal Corridor Identification and Development program; and
- Transit & Intercity Capital Program grant award next steps.

The draft 2025 meeting schedule is online as a **web attachment**. The next CRCC Policy Committee meeting is planned for May 16 in San Jose.

On February 11-13, Caltrans and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) held meetings with recipients of Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) grant funding. TAMC staff attended

a meeting pertaining to the Central Coast Corridor on February 13. Discussion topics included the process for FRA reviews of Caltrans submittals, the timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act documents, and the potential for the process to be used by Caltrans in the absence of future federal funding. One topic related to the Pajaro station is the phasing option for the Corridor ID process, as the station is ahead of the rest of the corridor.

Staff will present a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 3, 2025
Subject: **Pajaro Multimodal Station Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include meetings with Union Pacific Railroad Company, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), and Santa Cruz Metro on design options and with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Caltrans staff to discuss the federal Corridor ID funding program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work began in 2024 with state-secured 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 the design update and right of way work. 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.

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 \$2.24 million to fund environmental review documentation, which is currently underway. The activities following the most recent Rail Policy Committee meeting are as follows:

February 7, 2025	Meeting with Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the Pajaro River flood mitigation and levee repair projects
February 13, 18 and 19, 2025	Meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Caltrans to discuss the federal Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) grant program
February 20, 2025	Meeting with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation

	Commission (SCCRTC) and HDR to discuss the Zero Emission Passenger Rail Trail (ZEPRT) Project and how it intersects with the TAMC Pajaro station project
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To date, TAMC's design consultant HDR has completed the scoping report and noise analysis, as well as conceptual plans for review by Union Pacific Railroad.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: March 3, 2025
Subject: **Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions, design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections), and right-of-way negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Monterey County Rail Extension project, Phase 1, Salinas Kick Start project (the Salinas station and improvements in Santa Clara County), is estimated to total \$87 million for all phases of work. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance and is currently in the final design phase.

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 1, known as the Kick Start Project, includes Salinas train station circulation improvements, a train layover facility in Salinas, and track improvements at the Gilroy station and between Salinas and Gilroy. The Kick Start Project has wrapped up construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Final Design

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and has gathered stakeholder input on those plans. Since the last report to this Committee, the design team has continued to coordinate design review with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), the City of Gilroy, and the City of Salinas.

Property Acquisition

Four parcels remain that are potentially required for the layover facility and Gilroy track improvements, which are owned by Union Pacific. Property rights negotiations have been on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans. TAMC staff requested permission to begin discussions with the Union Pacific real estate division and are coordinating this effort with the Agency's right-of-way consultants of Bender Rosenthal and Nossaman.

Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS: