

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of August 3, 2026

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

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

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

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

Dave Simpson	Herzog	Jasmine Mejia Cortez	District 1 Office
Paul Dyson	Public	Rob Cunningham	Caltrans Division of Rail
Roland LeBrun	Public		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Dyson expressed concern regarding the best way to convince LOSSAN to enable thruway bus ticketing of the road without a rail ticket.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Carbone / Oglesby / unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of June 1, 2026, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received correspondence.

3.3 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. CENTRAL COAST SERVICE DEPLOYMENT PLAYBOOK

The Committee received a presentation on the Central Coast Service Deployment Playbook.

Andy Cook, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Rob Cunningham, Caltrans Division of Rail. Mr. Cunningham reported on a service implementation playbook for the initial extension of intercity rail service to the Central Coast, including the Monterey County Rail Extension. He noted that the Central Coast Service Deployment Playbook will serve as a basis for State-led negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and passenger rail operators to secure operating agreements needed to initiate the new rail services in the Central Coast Rail Corridor. The Playbook was designed as a platform for bringing the partner operating agencies to the table under a State umbrella to provide an action plan with roles and responsibilities for starting service and engaging with UPRR to clarify operating and capital requirements.

Committee members raised questions related to travel time, operating funds, ridership demand, project schedules, planning timelines, and benefits for tourism in the region.

Public comment:

Roland LeBrun said that he is excited about the proposed passenger rail service and would like to see the train stop in Gilroy.

Paul Dyson noted expressed frustration with the time it takes to get rail projects implemented.

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 on the Monterey County Rail Extension Project. She noted that the team submitted 30% plans for the Salinas layover facility and platform to UPRR on April 24, 2026, securing UPRR permission to proceed to the 90% plan stage for Salinas in June. Ms. Watson added that the team submitted the revised 25% plans for the Gilroy track connections and roadway crossings to UPRR on June 19 and secured UPRR permission to schedule a site visit and move into 30% design on July 24. She noted that the final tenant on Agency property has now vacated the property and staff is preparing for demolition of that structure. Ms. Watson noted that HDR is coordinating with Caltrans and utilities on relocation plans, aiming to get CalWater and PG&E relocated to New Street in fall 2026 or spring 2027.

6. CENTRAL COAST RAIL CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATES

The Committee received an update on the implementation plans for new passenger rail service along the Central Coast Rail Corridor between the San Francisco Bay and Los Angeles.

Andy Cook, Principal Transportation Planner, provided an update on the King City station project. Mr. Cook noted that the Agency successfully coordinated to have UPRR complete its review of 25% track design plans for the station project and is coordinating UPRR to approve and execute a new design review agreement. Mr. Cook noted that staff sent template resolutions of support for the passenger rail pilot project for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games to all Committee Members. Mr. Cook reported the next Coast Rail Coordinating Council is scheduled for September 11, 2026.

Committee members asked staff to send the template resolution of support to all TAMC Board Members and City Managers and asked staff to send template letters of support to regional Chambers of Commerce.

7. HIGHWAY 1 ELKHORN SLOUGH CORRIDOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT

The Committee received an update on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project activities.

Alissa Guthier, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that agency staff hosted a joint Advisory Group and Steering Committee meeting on June 8, 2026. She noted that participants were asked to fill out a survey on alternative evaluation screening criteria. Ms. Guthier noted that the next milestone will be presenting the final proposed alternatives to the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group. She noted that Agency staff will continue to meet on a one-on-one basis with partner organizations to gain insight and receive resources needed to further the alternatives development and selection.

8. PAJARO/WATSONVILLE MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Andy Cook, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that TAMC staff scheduled a site visit with UPRR on June 15 and received feedback on design concepts for the planned Pajaro/Watsonville station. Mr. Cook noted that staff coordinated with Caltrans to request a 24-month extension of the TIRCP grant. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved a 12-month extension at its June meeting, and staff plans to submit another extension before June 2027 for the remaining time needed. Mr. Cook noted that the Committee directed staff to schedule a second joint meeting between SCCRTC and the RPC to coordinate plans for future connections at the Pajaro/Watsonville Station, which SCCRTC staff have asked to reschedule for early 2027.

Committee members expressed frustrations related to delaying the meeting, noting the importance of strengthening connections between the agencies.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

10. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.