

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of June 6, 2016

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	MAY 15	JUNE 15	AUG 15	SEP 15	NOV 15	JAN 16	FEB 16	MAR 16	APR 16	MAY 16	JUNE 16
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P	P	C	P	P	P	P(A)	P(A)	C	C	E
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	E	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	N	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee , J. Mohammadi)	P	P	C	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	C	C	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	P	-	E	-	P	P	-	P	E	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	E	P	L	-	P	E	P	P	L	L	P(A)
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair (R. Russell, J. Serrano)	P	P	L	P	P(A)	P	-	P(A)	L	L	P(A)
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	-	E	P	P	E	-	-	E	E	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (I. Oglesby)	P	E	D	P	P	P	P	P	D	D	P(A)
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	E		P	P	P	P	P			E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	-	P(A)		-	-	P(A)	-	P(A)			P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-		-	-	E	-	-			-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	-		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	-			P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-		-	-	-	-	-			-
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	E		P	P	P	P	E			P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P		P	P	P	P	P			P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P	P	P	P			P
A. Green, Transp. Planner	E	-		-	-	-	-	-			-
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	E		P	E	P	P	P			P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	-	-		-	P	-	-	P			P
V. Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P	P	P	P			P
E – Excused VC – Video Conference P(A) – Alternate TC – Teleconference											

1. **QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Delgado called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Flescher California Rail Advocacy Don Reynolds City of Salinas

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Markey/Oglesby/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the March 7, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **REAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP POLICIES**

M/S/C Markey/Stratton/unanimous

The Committee reviewed the amended Real Property Ownership Policies regarding uses of Agency-owned real property through leases, easements, and encroachment permits; and recommended that the TAMC Board adopt the updated real property ownership policies.

Hank Myers, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer, reported that the current real property ownership policies needed to be updated. Mr. Myers reported that the Agency's current policies were adopted in 2003, and pertained only to the Monterey Branch Line. He noted that the updated policies apply to all TAMC property and clarify the rules related to future uses of property through leases, easements and encroachment permits, as well as assuring that the rail corridor is preserved for future rail or transportation uses.

Committee Alternate Markey asked what the old policies covered. Mr. Myers noted the old policies only covered the Monterey Branch Line encroachment permits.

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas staff, asked about the exhibit showing ownership at the Salinas Intermodal Transit Center (ITC). Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, noted that the Salinas ITC exhibit is draft, pending adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and TAMC.

Committee Alternate Harvath asked about the frequency of property inspections. Mr. Myers said that TAMC staff conduct regular visual inspections and litter abatement. Debbie Hale, Executive Director, noted that jurisdictions should also notify TAMC if there are issues with the properties. Mr. Harvath expressed concern about the property lines not being well understood by lessees, and said this could be a concern for upcoming projects.

Committee Alternate Deal asked if utilities are required to relocate at the utility's expense. Mr. Myers said that utilities are required to cover their own relocation expenses.

Acting Chair Delgado asked if the Monterey Branch Line ends in Seaside or Sand City. Mr. Myers said that it ends at Contra Costa in Sand City.

Acting Chair Delgado thanked staff for their work on the updated policies, noting that they are user-friendly.

5. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Ms. Watson reported that the progress since the last update to the Committee about the Salinas Rail Extension project on March 7, 2016, included discussions with the Capitol Corridor and California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) regarding the near-term options for two round trips to Salinas, and a meeting with the City of Salinas regarding improvements at the Intermodal Transportation Center.

Ms. Watson reported that the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority is undergoing a paradigm shift with their new business plan update. The Capitol Corridor is considering acquiring their own rail line, and is looking at optimizing the current train schedule. The schedule optimization eliminates a train that could serve Salinas. Ms. Watson noted that TAMC staff and Capitol Corridor staff have been meeting with CalSTA to discuss possible near and long-term scenarios, possibly including an independent Monterey Bay Rail service connecting to High Speed Rail in Gilroy.

Ms. Watson noted that design and right-of-way work for the project continue at the Salinas station. Michael Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that negotiations with station property owners are moving forward.

6. **COAST DAYLIGHT TRAIN SERVICE UPDATE**

The Committee received update on the planned Coast Daylight train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Ms. Watson reported that progress since the last update to the Committee about the Coast Daylight on March 7, 2016, includes efforts by the Coast Rail Coordinating Council to hold onto \$25 million in state bond funding for the project and completion of an Amtrak feasibility study that shows the project would cost the state \$3.1 million in annual operating costs.

Ms. Watson reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) reallocated \$25 million in state bond funding from the Coast Daylight project to the Seacliff rail siding project in Ventura County and to LA Metro's "Raymer to Bernson" double-track project. Mr. Zeller reported that Carl Guardino, CTC Commissioner, Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans Director, and Bruce Roberts, Caltrans Division of Rail Chief, all expressed support for the Coast Daylight project.

Ms. Watson reported that Amtrak's feasibility study for the Coast Daylight is now complete. The study shows a 55% farebox recovery ratio for the service, which is above the State's 50% minimum required farebox recovery ratio. Ms. Watson noted that the study's ridership estimates are conservative.

Acting Chair Delgado asked about the alternatives (San Francisco or San Jose) reviewed in the study. Ms. Watson reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council directed staff to analyze the San Jose to San Diego alternative as phase 1 of the Coast Daylight project.

Ms. Watson reported that Senator Cannella agreed to author Senate Bill 1197 to support the extension of existing rail corridors. However, staff asked Senator Cannella to pull the bill to allow more time for Capitol Corridor, Pacific Surfliner, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, and TAMC staff to refine the bill language.

Committee Alternate Markey asked about the purpose of SB 1197, and if the bill is required for federal funding. Ms. Watson said the bill expands the boundaries of the State's intercity rail corridors to allow for the Coast Daylight or Rail Extension to Salinas services. Ms. Watson noted that the bill is not required for federal funding, but noted that staff is currently working on the federal environmental review for the project.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

8. ADJOURN

Acting Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.