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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](mailto:info@tamcmonterey.org)

**Rail Policy Committee**

**Monday, January 12, 2026**

**\*\*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  
Supervisor Church's Office*

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

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

*1200 Aguajito Road, Ste. 1, Monterey  
Supervisor Daniels' office*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84406868796?pwd=5H1jbqyq0SHIKyLqd9Wh93DoHLNxCb.1>

**OR**

**By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833**

**Webinar ID: 844 0686 8796**

**Passcode: 255234**

**If you join the meeting by phone and would like to make a public comment on an item, please dial \*9 to raise your hand.**

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54952.7:**

**Please find Chapter 9, also known as the Ralph M. Brown Act:**

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5.](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5)

*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 6 of the following members: Askew, Alejo, Carbone, Church, Daniels, Delgado, Donohue, LeBarre, Oglesby, 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 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](mailto: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.

### **COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO:**

Cualquier miembro del público podrá dirigirse a la Comité sobre cualquier punto no incluido en la agenda, pero que sea de su competencia. En este punto, cada miembro del público tendrá dos minutos para plantear sus inquietudes. Se podrán formular comentarios sobre los puntos de este agenda cuando se discuta dicho punto. Se anima a quienes deseen dirigirse a la Comité para recibir comentarios del público o sobre un punto de la agenda que envíen sus comentarios por escrito a Maria en [maria@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:maria@tamcmonterey.org) antes de las 5:00 pm del lunes anterior a la reunión. Dichos comentarios se distribuirán a la Comité antes de la reunión.

Formato alternativo de la agenda y recursos auxiliares: Si se solicita, la agenda se pondrá a disposición de las personas con discapacidad en formatos alternativos apropiados, según lo exige la Sección 202 de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132) y las normas y reglamentos federales adoptados en su aplicación. Las personas que soliciten una modificación o adaptación por discapacidad, incluyendo ayudas o servicios auxiliares, pueden comunicarse con el personal de la Agencia de Transporte al 831-775-0903. Las ayudas o servicios auxiliares incluyen instalaciones accesibles para sillas de ruedas, intérpretes de lengua de señas, intérpretes de español y materiales impresos en letra grande, braille o en disco. Estas solicitudes pueden ser presentadas por una persona con discapacidad que requiera una modificación o adaptación para participar en la reunión pública y deben hacerse al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión. Se hará todo lo posible para atender la solicitud.

### 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 November 3, 2025.

- Maria Montiel

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

3.2. **RECEIVE** correspondence.

- Christina Watson

3.3. **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

### 4. **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update:**

1. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles; and
2. **RECOMMEND** Board appoint representatives to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

- Christina Watson

*The Transportation Agency Board previously appointed Dave Potter and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Staff asks the Committee to recommend the Board appoint members to the Council for 2026.*

5. **RECEIVE** update on the Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station Project.

- Alissa Guther

***Activities on the Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station project include a Project Development Team Meeting and meetings with Caltrans staff to discuss Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding allocation and contract schedule.***

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 and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).***

7. **RECEIVE** update on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project activities.

- Alissa Guther

***The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), working collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) will evaluate the risk of sea level rise impacting a key transportation corridor in north Monterey County and develop multimodal and nature-based transportation adaptation solutions to address this vulnerability. This project will focus on an eight-mile stretch of Highway 1 through the disadvantaged community of Moss Landing and the parallel five miles of rail tracks traversing Elkhorn Slough.***

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURN**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Committee meeting

**Monday, February 2, 2026, 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](mailto: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](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)  
55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901  
TEL: 831-775-0903  
EMAIL: [info@tamcmonterey.org](mailto: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:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** **Draft RPC Minutes**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

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

**SUMMARY:**

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

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

1. Draft\_RPC\_Minutes\_November\_2025\_Meeting

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Draft Minutes of November 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  
 1200 Aguajito Rd. Suite 1, Monterey, CA 93940 Supervisor Daniel's Office

	NOV 24	JAN 25	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25	JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, <del>J. Gomez</del> )	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E	P(A) (VC)	<b>C</b>	P(A) (VC)	P	<b>N</b>	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P
G. Church, Dist. 2 ( <del>M. Vierra</del> , L. Gray)	E	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	<b>A</b>	P(VC)	P(A) (VC)	<b>O</b>	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson, <del>E. Mora</del> )	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	<b>N</b>	P(VC)	P(A) (VC)	<b>M</b>	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
K. Daniels, Dist. 5, (K. Craig)	P(A) (VC)	A*	P	E	<b>C</b>	P(VC)	P(VC)	<b>E</b>	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	E	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina (J. McAdams L. Visscher)	A	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	<b>L</b>	P(VC)	A	<b>T</b>	P	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	A
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	P	P	A	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>I</b>	P	P	P	A
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (M. D'Arrigo)	P	A	A	P	<b>E</b>	P	A	<b>N</b>	P	P	P	A
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	P	P	P	P	<b>D</b>	P	P	<b>G</b>	P	E	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	A	A	A	P		P	P		P	P	P	A
A. Velazquez, Soledad (F. Ansaldo-Sanchez)	P	A*	P (VC)	P (VC)		P(VC)	A		P	P (VC)	E	A
M. Twomey, AMBAG ( <del>H. Adamson</del> , P. Hierling)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)		A	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5	A	A	P(VC)	P (VC)		A	A		P (VC)	A	A	A
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ <del>M. Overmeyer</del> )	P(A) (VC)	A	A	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)	A		P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)

STAFF	NOV 24	JAN 25	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25	JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25
T. Muck, Executive Director	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	N	P	P	P	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	O	P (VC)	P	P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	N	P (VC)	P (VC)	M	P	P	P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	E	P	P	P	C	P	P	E	P	P	E	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P (VC)	A	A	A	E	A	P	E	P	P	E	P
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P	P (VC)	P	A	L	P (VC)	P (VC)	T	A	A	P (VC)	A
A. Guther, Assoc. Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P	L	P	P (VC)	I	P	A	P	P
A. Sambrano Transp. Planner	A	A	A	A	E	A	P (VC)	N	A	A	P (VC)	A
J. Strause, Associate Transp. Planner	A	A	A	A	D	P (VC)	A	G	P (VC)	A	A	P (VC)
J. Kise, Director of Finance and Admin	A	A	A	A		A	A		A	P (VC)	P (VC)	A
M. Park, Finance Officer/Analyst	A	A	P (VC)	A		A	P (VC)		P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
R. Bigelow, Contracts and Grants	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	P (VC)	P (VC)	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 2:09 p.m. Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant, called the roll and confirmed a quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Linda Gonzalez	District 1 office	Matt Johnson	Public
Rob Cunningham	Caltrans Division of Rail	Roland LeBrun	Public
Margaret D’Arrigo	City of Salinas	Michael Groves	Public

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Roland LeBrun, member of the public, noted that he sent Ms. Watson an email with Thursday's Caltrain Board meeting supplemental reading file that includes an update on the Battery Electric Multiple Unit train acquisition project.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Alejo/ Carbone/ unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of October 6, 2025, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

**3.3** Received and update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

**3.4** Received the call for nominations for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups, or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

**3.5** Approved the 2026 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings with a correction to the meeting schedule to correct the September meeting date from September 7, 2026, to September 14, 2026, due to the Labor Day Holiday on September 7.

**3.6** Received media clippings attached online.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. TAMC REAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP POLICIES UPDATE**

**M/S/C** Alejo/ Anderson/ unanimous

The Committee received an update on TAMC's Real Property Ownership Policies, discussed proposed updates to the policies, and recommended Board approval of the 2025 TAMC Real Property Ownership Policies, with a revision to include penalties related to non-compliance with terms of the agreement and to clarify that one agreement could cover single project with both transportation and non-transportation uses.

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery, reported that the original Real Property Ownership Policies were last updated in 2016, and they require revision to reflect changes in property status, funding restrictions, and administrative practices. He noted as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Monterey County, TAMC's core responsibilities have traditionally focused on planning, funding, and delivering transportation projects, with limited need for property ownership. Mr. Zeller noted that TAMC has acquired several properties to support multimodal transportation initiatives, including land around the Salinas Train Station, the Monterey Branch Line, and parcels at the former Fort Ord.

Committee Alternate Anderson asked whether the five-year revaluation is a new policy or holdover from the prior policies. Mr. Zeller replied that it would be a new policy assuming that if the agreement's duration were longer than 5 years, it would be reconsidered every five years.

Michael Groves, member of the public, noted that parking should be considered a transportation use, especially relating to the Sand City trail project. Executive Director Todd Muck replied that the original reason for TAMC acquiring the Monterey Branch Line was to preserve the corridor for future rail service; he noted that any incidental uses should be considered by the Board as a non-transportation use that would be charged fair market value. Mr. Muck noted that the Monterey-Salinas Transit SURF! line is a public benefit, and is therefore not charged, but they accept responsibility for maintenance of the portion of the corridor the bus line will use, and parking is not allowed as part of that project.

Chair LeBarre asked staff to include in the property policies a statement about penalties and make sure agreements include stronger language than leases and make sure leaseholders cannot continue to operate and profit beyond the expiration of the lease agreement.

**5. HIGHWAY 1 ELKHORN SLOUGH CORRIDOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT**

**M/S/C** Carbone/ Alejo/ unanimous

The Committee received information on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project activities; reviewed the draft outreach plan for the project; and approved the draft project outreach schedule.

Alissa Guther, Associate Transportation Planner, reported on the project activities since the last RPC meeting. The report focused on the outreach plan, highlighting that a key component of the Planning and Environmental Linkages study is to gather input and build consensus among internal and external stakeholders to shape the proposed corridor transportation vision. Ms. Guther noted that the project's public engagement strategy and actions will occur throughout the planning process. She noted that a steering committee has been assembled to balance the diverse interests, expertise, and experiences of the community members, agencies, and organizations that are impacted by the resilience of the corridor.

Committee Member Alejo asked for details on the plans for tribal engagement. Ms. Guther replied that the team is working to establish engagement.

Committee Member Church requested that the advisory group be expanded to include local community members.

Committee Alternate Anderson asked whether an online workshop to kick off the project is the best way to engage community members. Ms. Guther replied that the first public workshop is to give an overview of challenges and existing conditions and allow the team to explain the purpose and outline the approach. She noted that the team has scheduled in-person engagements over the summer, and digital mapping tools will be available for anyone to provide comments. The project will also engage with Community Based Organizations. She noted she is also attending relevant meetings of interested parties to solicit input and engage the community at existing meetings and farmers markets.

**6. DRAFT 2026 LEGISLATION PROGRAM**

The Committee reviewed and provided comments on the draft 2026 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, highlighted the draft legislative program items of interest to the Committee; she noted that the program notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the Agency.

Committee Member Alejo noted that homelessness is a serious issue for the County.

**7. COAST CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT UPDATE**

**M/S/C** Alejo/ LeBarre/ unanimous

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and recommended the Board support for a federal grant application for the corridor.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) held a call on October 24, 2025, and discussed a potential grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for the Coast Route under a recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program for Projects Not Located on the Northeast Corridor. Ms. Watson noted that they may choose to apply for a federal rail grant, for which the application deadline is January 7, 2026.

Committee Member Daniels asked about the total grant request.

Chair LeBarre asked if the application could include rail equipment.

Roland LeBrun, member of public noted that locomotive equipment would be a good idea.

Ms. Watson noted her report to the Board would have more details, that the grant application is still conceptual at this point.

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

Committee Member Daniels asked if she can she attend the November 21, 2025, CRCC meeting in King City. Ms. Watson replied that she will send meeting info.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced that there is no meeting in December and January 12, 2026, meeting is scheduled a week later than usual to avoid conflicts with winter holidays.

**9. ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Christina Watson, Director of Planning  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** Correspondence

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** correspondence.

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

None

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

- [November 3, 2025 email from Roland Lebrun, re: Item 2 public comment BEMU update](#)
- [November 7, 2025 email from Althouse and Meade, re: Notification of Upcoming Railroad Safety Project in Your Area](#)
- [November 8, 2025 letter from Harish Griffin Sundaram, re: Construction of adding Salinas to Castroville Double Track Project and adding second platform at the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center Station](#)

**Memorandum**

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Christina Watson, Director of Planning  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** **Media Clippings**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

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

1. 2025-11-26 International Rail Journal - Alstom suspends hydrogen

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

- [October 27, 2025 article on Smart Cities Dive, "Caltrain ridership up 47% after electrification"](#)
- [November 3, 2025 news release, "Amtrak San Joaquins Becomes Gold Runner, Marking a New Era for California Passenger Rail"](#)
- [December 2, 2025 news release, "Capitol Corridor is Returning to Full Service Starting December 8, 2025!"](#)
- [December 10, 2025 article in the King City Rustler, "Coast rail projects moving forward in latest reports: King City station revival, Salinas upgrades drive regional rail growth"](#)
- [December 26, 2025 article in Patch, "A Travel Startup Is Bringing Luxury Train Cars To The Bay Area: Report: The train cars will offer connections between the Bay Area, Los Angeles and Denver, according to the San Francisco Chronicle"](#)

## Alstom suspends hydrogen development in France - updated

CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge says hydrogen technology is not yet mature.



The Coradia iLint has been successfully tested in the Netherlands.

Photo Credit: Quintus Vosman

ALSTOM has confirmed that development of hydrogen-powered trains has been “temporarily paused” in France due to the withdrawal of French government funding for European hydrogen research projects, while the company’s CEO, Henri Poupart-Lafarge, says that hydrogen technology is “not yet mature.”

In an interview with French media outlet [BFM Business](#), Alstom confirmed an internal document stating that certain hydrogen research and development programmes have been temporarily suspended in France.

An Alstom spokesperson told IRJ that the suspension concerns locomotive and regional train hydrogen fuel cell research and development projects underway in France.

“Our IPCEI projects in Italy and their funding remain fully intact, and Alstom will continue to support these contracts as planned, including maintenance as agreed with the customers for the Coradia iLint,” the spokesperson said.

In France, 12 Régiolis trains powered by hydrogen and developed in cooperation with CAF have been ordered by the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Occitanie, Grand Est and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regions. This deal is unaffected as are orders for the Coradia Stream H design from South East Railway (two trains) and the North Milan Railway (FNM) in Italy. FNM awarded Alstom a framework contract to supply up to 14 hydrogen trains. Contracts for the supply and maintenance of Coradia iLint hydrogen trains for German regions are also unaffected.

Hydrogen has been seen as a zero-emissions replacement for diesel, and has been promoted since 2022 by the European Union (EU) which has authorised €5bn in support for research. The Coradia iLint train powered by hydrogen fuel cells has been developed and sold by Alstom in Germany and demonstrated in France, where several regions expressed interest and French companies have been involved in developing hydrogen traction technology.

However, the Coradia iLint has never run in trial service in France as hoped. The train has been beset by problems in Germany where Rhine-Main Transport Authority (RMV) was forced to withdraw its fleet of 18 trains following repeated technical issues with the hydrogen fuel cells.

Siemens Mobility has also experienced problems with its Mireo Plus H design, ordered by Bavaria and Berlin-Brandenburg, while initial enthusiasm for hydrogen in the automotive and airline sectors appears to be waning. Stadler introduced its inaugural Flirt H2 hydrogen train on a commuter service in southern California in September. It has also won a further hydrogen fleet contract from the state of California and contracts from narrow-gauge railways in Austria and Italy.

Alstom says it has completed a hydrogen fuel cell developed under the EU IPCEI programme and is continuing discussions with its hydrogen train customers in three EU countries. However, some research staff have been redeployed on other projects.

*For detailed data on fleet orders worldwide, subscribe to [IRJ Pro](#).*

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**Tags:** [Alstom](#), [France](#), [Hydrogen](#), [hydrogen fuel cells](#), [iLint](#)

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November 11, 2025

**Memorandum**

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Christina Watson, Director of Planning  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:****Coast Corridor Rail Project Update:**

1. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles; and
2. **RECOMMEND** Board appoint representatives to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

**SUMMARY:**

The Transportation Agency Board previously appointed Dave Potter and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Staff asks the Committee to recommend the Board appoint members to the Council for 2026.

**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 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 November 21, 2025 in King City and discussed the potential application for Federal Railroad Administration funding for projects supporting passenger rail service on the coast rail corridor. The team is currently gathering support letters from Caltrans, Union Pacific, and Amtrak for the application, which is now due February 6, 2026. The agenda for the meeting is available on the CRCC website (**web attachment 1**).

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) held hearings in October and November 2025 on the draft Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), which includes \$10.712 million for construction of the King City platform. (See **web attachment 2**.)

In January 2025, the TAMC Board approved the appointment of Dave Potter as the TAMC

representative and Mike LeBarre as the TAMC alternate for a one-year term, and the CRCC Policy Committee selected Mr. Potter as the Chair. The Rail Policy Committee is now asked to recommend appointments to the CRCC Policy Committee for the period ending January 2027. The appointment involves attending up to four meetings of the CRCC Policy Committee and potentially representing the group at a legislative day in Sacramento and/or the California Passenger Rail Summit, scheduled for April 29-May 1, 2026 (**web attachment 3**). The next CRCC Policy Committee meeting is planned for February 20, 2026, in San Luis Obispo.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Coast Rail Coordinating Council](#)
2. [Draft 2026 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program](#)
3. [California Passenger Rail Summit 2026](#)

**Memorandum**

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station Project Update

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** update on the Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station Project.

**SUMMARY:**

Activities on the Pajaro/ Watsonville Multimodal Station project include a Project Development Team Meeting and meetings with Caltrans staff to discuss Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding allocation and contract schedule.

**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 TIRCP 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/ Watsonville 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. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) is developing the proposed Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) project on the Santa Cruz Branch Line, connecting at Pajaro.

TAMC's consultant, HDR Engineering, is developing environmental review documentation. To date, HDR has completed the scoping report and noise analysis, as well as conceptual plans pending review by Union Pacific Railroad. Technical studies including hydrology, cultural and biological are underway. Project-related activities and meetings attended since the most recent Rail Policy Committee meeting update include a SCCRTC ZEPRT Project Development Team Meeting on December 11, 2025, and meetings with Caltrans to discuss the TIRCP funding allocation and contract schedule.

The SCCRTC accepted the final concept report (**web attachment**) for the proposed ZEPRT project

on the Santa Cruz Branch Line on December 4, 2025. The report presents the project concept developed for the proposed implementation of a new daily passenger rail service and multi-use trail operating on the SCCRTC-owned Branch Line corridor. The report details the development and related background, analysis, assumptions, findings, and potential next steps. The next phase of the ZEPRT project would be to complete preliminary engineering and environmental analysis. However, there is a \$14 to \$15 million funding gap for this work, and the work is on hold until additional funds are secured.

At the December 4, 2025, Commission meeting, the SCCRTC voted to develop an interim trail in place of existing tracks for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 9-11, while continuing long-term planning for future passenger rail on the Santa Cruz Branch line. The Commission approved a Resolution of Support for future passenger rail and continued partnership with the Caltrans Division of Rail on Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID), which aligns with the 2024 State Rail Plan.

Staff is coordinating with SCCRTC staff on a potential joint meeting with the RPC in February 2026. Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

- [Final ZEPRT Project Concept Report, October 24, 2025](#)

## Memorandum

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Christina Watson, Director of Planning  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** **Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update**

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### **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 and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

### **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) and the City of Salinas. HDR submitted revised 25% plans for the Gilroy track connection project (package 3) on October 17, 2025; UPRR responded with comments on December 22, 2025 and requested a resubmittal at the 25% level. The team anticipates submitting 30% plans for the Salinas layover facility (package 2) in early 2026. TAMC, Caltrans, HDR, and UPRR are also discussing the potential for a siding in the vicinity of the Watsonville yard as a near-term improvement to support freight service and passenger rail on-time performance.

### **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. The City of Salinas finalized the New Street vacation and TAMC staff is preparing a contract to fence off the end of the road, with a gate for access by utility companies and the railroad.

### **Operations Discussions**

Staff have participated in discussions with Caltrans, Caltrain, and Capitol Corridor related to operations scenarios. The current anticipated timeline shows an operating plan by mid-2026 for the Capitol Corridor extension to Salinas to begin service as early as 2028, following the current operations strategy of the Amtrak Coast Starlight and serving only Salinas until other improvements can be constructed to enable the train stopping in Gilroy.

UPRR is working on the project to implement Positive Train Control in the corridor between Gilroy and Salinas, initiating construction in early 2026 with an anticipated timeline of 2027 for completion, with construction to San Luis Obispo taking until approximately 2029.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None

### **WEB ATTACHMENTS:**

**Memorandum**

**To:** Rail Policy Committee  
**From:** Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2026  
**Subject:** Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency Project

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** update on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project activities.

**SUMMARY:**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), working collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) will evaluate the risk of sea level rise impacting a key transportation corridor in north Monterey County and develop multimodal and nature-based transportation adaptation solutions to address this vulnerability. This project will focus on an eight-mile stretch of Highway 1 through the disadvantaged community of Moss Landing and the parallel five miles of rail tracks traversing Elkhorn Slough.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

TAMC received \$2,250,000 from a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Climate Adaption Grant program grant to prepare a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and related documents, expanding on existing feasibility studies on nature-based and multimodal solutions to climate change impacts on the corridor. This money will be used to pay TAMC, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR), and consultant expenses. The local match funds are from State funds.

**DISCUSSION:**

This project focuses on an eight-mile stretch of Highway 1 through the disadvantaged community of Moss Landing and the parallel five miles of rail tracks traversing Elkhorn Slough. Providing multimodal options and integrating nature-based solutions are top priorities for this project. The corridor traverses Elkhorn Slough, a major estuary located in Monterey Bay, California, that provides valuable habitat area for hundreds of aquatic birds, fish, marine mammals, and invertebrate species. Tidal estuarine habitats within the Slough, and the ecosystem services they provide, are at risk of substantial degradation and losses from sea level rise. Coastal Resilience Monterey predicts sea level rise to be 5.2 feet by 2100. The rail tracks through Elkhorn Slough, owned by Union Pacific railroad, carries freight rail traffic and Amtrak Coast Starlight passengers. The Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency study examined the climate impacts on the rail corridor and recommended an elevated trestle through the slough. This, along with other alternatives, will be considered during the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL Study) process.

A key component of the PEL study is to gather input and build consensus among internal and external stakeholders to shape the proposed corridor transportation vision. This is a comprehensive approach that involves resource and regulatory agencies, tribes, local stakeholders and engaging the

public on an ongoing basis in meetings, workshops and public hearings and notices. Thus, staff will receive important feedback and input from stakeholders as key milestones of the project are reached.

The Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency Project's public engagement strategy and actions will occur throughout the planning process. A stakeholder advisory committee has been assembled to balance the diverse interests, expertise, and experiences of the community members, agencies, and organizations that are impacted by the resilience of the corridor. The aim is to have early and frequent engagements to ensure a collaborative process that will shape the outcomes of the planning work to find feasible alternatives for the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough corridor.

Project activities commenced in May 2025. The Kimley-Horn consultant team has been conducting initial tasks, including gathering existing conditions materials, writing a draft outreach plan, doing stakeholder analysis, and planning upcoming outreach efforts. TAMC created a steering committee including the project proponent organizations, the California Coastal Commission, Monterey County Planning and public works, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and scheduled monthly meetings.

On December 4th, TAMC staff, members of the consultant team and steering committee met at the Elkhorn Slough Foundation Visitor Center and observed flooding of the rail tracks and Elkhorn Road in the Elkhorn Slough preserve due to King Tides. Four attendees met to discuss storm scenario modeling. The Steering Committee met on December 18, 2025, to discuss modeling parameters for existing conditions and alternative scenarios for the corridor.

Since the last Rail Policy Committee meeting, the consultant team has finalized the outreach plan and traffic memo and is completing the Existing Conditions report. Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**WEB ATTACHMENTS:**