

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*FINAL Minutes of January 11, 2021*

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20	JUL 20	AUG 20	SEP 20	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, <del>J. Gomez</del> )	-	P(A)	P(A)	<b>C</b>	-	-	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, <del>C. Link</del> )	P(A)	P(A)	-	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>O</b>	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P(A)	-	<b>N</b>	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	-	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave)	P(A)	P(A)	E	<b>C</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>M</b>	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P(A)	E	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	P
Christina Medina Dirksen, Marina, Vice Chair (B. Delgado)	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>E</b>	-	<b>L</b>	-	-	-
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>T</b>	E	<b>L</b>	P	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	<b>I</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City ( <del>J. Blackwelder</del> , K. Cruz)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	<b>D</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>D</b>	-	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	-	P		P	P	<b>G</b>	P		-	-	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	-	P	-		P	P		P		-	P	-
D. Potter, At Large Member	P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	-
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, <del>P. Hierling</del> )	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-	-		P	-		-		-	-	
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		-	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
<b>STAFF</b>												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	E	P	E		P	P		P		P	P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	-	-	P		P	P		P		-	P	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P	E	P		E	P		P		P	-	P
M. Jacobsen, Transportation Planner		P	P		P	P		P		P	P	P

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

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Fernanda Roveri	City of Monterey	Ryan Park	AECOM
Shannon Simonds	Caltrans HQ	Michael Cornfield	Deutsche Bahn
Tarah Brady	Caltrans HQ	Paul Goryl	MNS

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Smith/Craig/unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the November 2, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

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

**3.3** Recommended the Board of Directors reappoint Mayor Potter and Mayor LeBarre to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. CITY OF MONTEREY SEA LEVEL RISE STUDY**

The Committee received a presentation from City of Monterey Senior Associate Planner Fernanda Roveri on the City's sea level rise study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Fernanda Roveri, City of Monterey, noting the reason this study is being presented to this Committee is due to the potential impacts to the Monterey Branch Line and future plans for rail or bus transit on that corridor. Ms. Roveri presented on the City of Monterey Sea Level Rise Study. She noted the options for preparing for the anticipated sea level rise impacts to downtown Monterey. Ms. Roveri noted that the final plan is scheduled for consideration by the Monterey City Council in February 2021.

Committee alternate Anderson asked what other cities are doing similar studies and what kind of coordination is happening between the cities. Ms. Roveri replied that last year AMBAG completed a study on sea level rise impacts to the Elkhorn Slough. Deputy Executive Director Todd Muck added that we have not heard of other cities doing these analyses. Ms. Roveri noted that Santa Cruz did a study that is limited to just one street, West Cliff Drive. She noted that grant funding is very competitive, and the State needs to support regional efforts.

Committee alternate Anderson asked how the City would resolve impacts to Monterey Branch Line rail operations. Ms. Watson noted staff would be compiling the Committee's concerns and comments into a letter to the City.

Committee member Smith asked about the accuracy of the sea level rise predictions. Ms. Roveri replied that predictions 80 years out are inherently difficult and lots of factors could change to impact actual sea level rise and impacts. She noted the next study would evaluate the current land elevations in more granular detail and explore the potential costs and benefits of dune restoration and other efforts.

**5. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE**

The Committee received an update and provided input on the Monterey Bay Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park with AECOM and Michael Cornfield with Deutsche Bahn. Mr. Park presented on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study governance and operations memo, the fleet strategy memo, and the draft capital cost estimates.

Committee member Smith asked for more explanation on the assumptions for station parking needs and platform types. Mr. Park replied that the parking needs assessment is high-level, based on walking, biking and bus access at station sites. He noted that they may be revised based on ridership analysis or feedback from policy makers. He noted that side platforms are appropriate for stations on a single track railroad, and island platforms are assumed where trains will meet to pass and to facilitate transfers.

**6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE**

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that 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. The Kick Start Project is proceeding with construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer reported that the construction team continues to make progress on Package 1. She noted that the team currently anticipates completion of the project by the end of January 2021. Ms. Watson noted that TAMC will be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony, on January 15, 2021 at noon, with virtual participation on Facebook Live, and at the train station.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on properties. He noted that negotiations are reaching settlement on four out of five parcels.

Ms. Watson reported that design kick-off meetings with Union Pacific Railroad, Caltrain and Valley Transportation Authority went well. She noted that TAMC would be delivering plans to Union Pacific Railroad this month. She reported that Caltrans will present an update on the strategic service deployment playbook at the February 2021 meeting.

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

None.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.