

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Final Minutes of October 7, 2019
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUNE 19	JUL 19	AUG 19	SEP 19	OCT 19
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez , J. Gomez)	P	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	C	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)	E	O	P(A)	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)		P(A)	N	E	N	P(A)	E		E	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P	E	M	P(A) TC	C	-
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	P	E	P	L	P	L	P	P	E	P	L	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	E	T	P	L	P	L	P	P(A)	T	P	L	-
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	I	P	E	P	E	-	-	I	P	E	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	-	N	-	D	-	D	-	-	N	P(A)	D	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P(A)	G	-		P		P	P	G	P		-
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P		-		P		-	P		-		P
D. Potter, At Large Member					-		P	P		P		E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	-		P(A)		-		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		E
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)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P		P		E		E	E		P		P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P		P		P		P	P		P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P		P	P		P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P		P	P		P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator	P		P		P		E	E		-		E
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P		P		P		P	P		P		P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		P		E		P	P		E		P

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Madilyn Jacobsen	TAMC staff	Brad Tarp	Salinas Resident
Colleen Courtney	Office of Senator Monning	Rod Neubert	Salinas Resident

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/ Askew/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 5, 2019 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SURF BUSWAY PRESENTATION

The Committee received an update on the MST SURF Busway project.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, noted that the MST SURF Busway project is a Measure X project formerly known as the Highway 1 Rapid Bus Corridor.

Lisa Rheinheimer, Assistant General Manager, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), presented the SURF Busway project along the Monterey Branch Line. She noted that TAMC purchased the Monterey Branch Line in 2003 to preserve the right-of-way for future transit needs. In 2009, the TAMC Board adopted light rail as the preferred use for the Branch Line. Per TAMC Board action, light rail remains the long-term plan for the use of the Monterey Branch Line. Bus Rapid transit was identified in TAMC's service alternatives analysis as another viable alternatives use for the Branch Line in near term, as it would improve regional transit service along the Monterey Peninsula and provide ridership data along the corridor that can help make the case for future light rail service. In 2018, MST completed the Monterey Bay Area Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and the Monterey Branch Line. The Study analyzed seven alternatives and concluded that implementing a one-way bus rapid transit corridor on a segment of the Monterey Branch Line was the best option due to a cost-benefit assessment. In conclusion, Ms. Rheinheimer noted that MST is initiating the environmental review and preliminary design phase of work.

Committee member Delgado asked whether the RPC should take an official position related to rail vs. bus within the Monterey Branch Line corridor. Chair LeBarre noted that anticipated population growth may necessitate the coordination of bus and train schedules for both to run operations within the corridor. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that the Network Integration Study will include an evaluation of rail on the Monterey Branch Line, which will

update the 2011 ridership estimates for the corridor. She also noted that the Federal Transit Administration asked MST to look at putting buses in the corridor as a precursor to rail.

Committee member Askew noted that she hears strong support for light rail in the corridor. She also noted that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) is considering changing school start times which may help to reduce traffic congestion during the school year.

Committee alternate Stratton expressed concern that the costs associated with the busway might better be used to move the light rail project forward to environmental review. Ms. Hale noted that the light rail project is still a long way out and that the busway could have up to 15 years of operation before light rail operations could theoretically begin.

5. **RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY**

The Committee received an update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area by determining the optimal options for: rail connectivity and operations, equipment needs, governance, and community benefits for service between Monterey County and Santa Clara County, Monterey and Santa Cruz, and the Coast Rail Corridor. She noted that this study will also assist TAMC by providing the data needed to prepare grant applications for funding new stations at Pajaro/Watsonville, Castroville, Soledad and King City. She noted that the study consultant, AECOM, finalized the Project Work Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and scheduled the first meeting of the Network Advisory Committee for October 21. In conclusion, Ms. Watson noted that the team is currently developing an Existing Conditions Analysis and a Grant Strategy Memo. Ms. Watson has invited the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to present on their Santa Cruz Rail Line at a future meeting date

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 activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update includes progress on the construction of Package 1 and continued operations discussions with Caltrain.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the City of Salinas has almost completed its storm drain and sanitary sewer relocations in the station area, pending a separation variance waiver from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water for the sanitary sewer line separation distance from the CalWater line. She noted that PG&E completed work on their joint trench along the Lincoln Avenue extension (gas and AT&T only) and MPE relocated some of the CalWater lines associated with the project. The City of Salinas approved a revised staging and traffic detour plan allowing MPE to close Station

Place to initiate the construction of the east parking lot starting September 17. City storm water construction inspection frequency has increased from monthly to weekly now that we are in the rainy season (Oct 1st – April 30th).

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that TAMC's right-of-way consultant has delivered the offer packages to the property owners of Package 2 parcels and they are negotiating for the acquisitions. He also noted that the Geocon conducted additional soil sample testing on properties previously determined to be contaminated in order to determine the extent of the arsenic that was found in the prior environmental assessment. After those results are available, Rincon will modify their contamination cleanup cost estimate.

Brad Tarp, resident, stated that the water pollution clean-up was certified by the State Water Control Board about three years ago.

Ms. Watson reported that staff continues to participate in meetings for the Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency study, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, Caltrain and the Northern California Rail Working group. She noted that Heather Adamson of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments will present a resiliency study update at the November meeting.

7. COAST CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the next Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy meeting is expected to be an in-person meeting in Ventura on December 13. Ms. Watson noted that both San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and the City of King are preparing to publish requests for proposals for the work funded through State Rail Assistance and Strategic Partnership funds.

Committee member LeBarre noted that Union Pacific has safety concerns due to multiple farm crossings accidents and expressed the need to consider paying for safety enhancements on rail line as leverage. Executive Director Debbie Hale responded that the State has asked Union Pacific how much funding might suffice to implement safety improvements and/or to purchase the corridor.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member Delgado noted that maintenance is needed near the TAMC corridor due to homelessness, trash, and fire hazardous on the corridor.

ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.