



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, January 11, 2021

****3:00 PM****

REMOTE CONFERENCING ONLY

There will be NO physical location of the meeting.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

Join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/654778900?pwd=L2daellZTW5NSDZMQ2RSY1hJVIpGZz09>

OR

By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 654 778 900

Password: 506977

Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

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 COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA.

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 three 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 by 5:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting.

3. BEGINNING OF 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 minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of November 2, 2020.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the November 2, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

- Watson

Progress since the last update to this Committee in October includes outreach for the Coast Rail studies that are underway and a Policy Committee meeting on December 11, 2020.

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

- Watson

Mayor Dave Potter (RPC Vice Chair) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) have been appointed to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, and Mayor Potter has been its Chair, for several years. Staff asks the RPC to consider recommending the Board reappoint both to the Council for 2021.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE presentation from City of Monterey Senior Associate Planner Fernanda Roveri on the City's sea level rise study.

- Watson/Roveri

The City of Monterey Transportation Adaptation Plan presents options for preparing for the anticipated sea level rise impacts to downtown Monterey. Only

one of the options under consideration - the sea wall - would accommodate the future plans for rail service to the City's downtown along the existing Monterey Branch Line Right-of-Way. Other options could be amended to include re-routing the rail tracks along with the roadways and other infrastructure.

5. **RECEIVE** update and **PROVIDE** input on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

- Watson

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in November include the fifth Network Advisory Committee and completion of a revised fleet strategy memo, an updated governance and operation memo, and a draft capital cost estimate memo.

6. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in November include the continued construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and coordination efforts with Union Pacific, Caltrans, Caltrain, and the City of Gilroy on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.
8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, February 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

**If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator
Christina@tamcmonterey.org**

Important Meeting Information

Remote Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhances State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via

teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. The public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during the meeting. 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@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00pm the Thursday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

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
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1. RECEIVE** correspondence attached online.
- C 2. RECEIVE** reports attached online.
- C 3. RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Draft November RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of November 2, 2020.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the November 2, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft November RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of November 2, 2020

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	DEC 19	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20	JUN 20	JUL 20	AUG 20	SEP 20	OCT 20	NOV 20
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez , J. Gomez)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	C	-	-	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	O	P(A)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)		P(A)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	N	P(A)	-
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	E
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	E	P	P	P	L	P	P	E	-	L	-	-
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	T	P	P	P	L	P	P	T	E	L	P	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	I	P	P	P	E	P	P	I	P	E	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	D	-	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	G	P	-	P		P	P	G	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, P. Hierling)		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)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director		E	P	E		P	P		P		P	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
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner		P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator		-	-	P		P	P		P		-	P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P	P	P		P	P		P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		P	E	P		E	P		P		P	-
M. Jacobsen, Transportation Planner			P	P		P	P		P		P	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

Justin C Fox	AECOM	Bill Sabo	Monterey Airport
Ryan Park	AECOM	Michael Cornfield	Deutsche Bahn

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Davis/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the October 5, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Approved 2021 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2021 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Committee received and commented on the draft 2021 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the draft 2021 legislative program has been updated since the agenda packet was prepared. She reviewed the changes from the 2020 adopted program, highlighting the issues on the draft program of key interest to the committee.

Committee alternate Stratton asked if Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) ridership is low, why we would advocate to restore pre-COVID service levels. Ms. Watson replied that essential workers still need to get to their jobs, and therefore MST provides an essential service to those workers.

Chair LeBarre noted that MST ridership is starting to rebound.

Committee alternate Rheinheimer noted that MST is having capacity issues due to COVID-19 physical distancing rules. She noted that the buses are not able to carry as many passengers due to the space out for seating and they need to have more buses on certain popular routes.

Chair LeBarre expressed the need to add language related to funding reduced price bus passes to encourage ridership. Ms. Watson replied that Transportation Agency staff will explore where to add the language.

5. **RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE**

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park and Justin Fox with AECOM and Michael Cornfield with Deutsche Bahn. Mr. Park presented on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study background and goals. He noted that the regional vision would be a multi-county and multi service passenger rail system, that would coordinate scheduling and fare integration. Mr. Park reviewed the initial service concept that has three daily round trips from Salinas to the Bay Area that on existing infrastructure using existing equipment. He noted that no new governance would be needed, and that Transportation Agency staff would administer agreements with Caltrain for contracted operations agreement and with Union Pacific Railroad for track access. He noted that local bus agencies are assumed to provide connections to rail.

Committee member Smith agreed that there is no need for a new governance structure in the near term. He noted that the current structure of the Rail Policy Committee supporting the TAMC Board as the governing entity may need to be expanded or reformulated to add more technical expertise.

Committee member Potter noted that TAMC should discuss the future expansion of services with our partner agencies in Santa Cruz.

Committee member Davis noted that since the project crosses jurisdictional boundaries, there should be consideration regarding how and when to engage with law enforcement.

Committee alternate Rheinheimer requested that the study include information on the financial impact to the local bus agencies to provide connecting service to new stations.

Mr. Park reviewed the mid-term phased service scenario, which increases rail frequencies between Salinas and the Bay Area and adds train service south of Salinas. He asked whether the Committee believed this stage would merit formation of a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to govern the increasing rail service operations and to plan for the future scenario of an around-the-bay rail service.

Committee member Davis asked whether the mid-term scenario should be more ambitious and specify the use of electric vehicles as per the Governor's mandate for zero-emission vehicles by 2035. Committee member Potter agreed that the mid-term service should be more aggressive in including zero-emission vehicles.

After extensive discussion, the Committee agreed that there was no clear reason to establish a new JPA in the mid-term scenario. It was argued that TAMC can continue to administer contracts and interagency agreements. One reason raised that could justify a new JPA would be cost-sharing among jurisdictions for the new service and the unifying effect of joint decision-making for services that cross county borders. The potential increase in retirement liabilities of member agencies was raised as a significant cost consideration of forming a new

entity. It was noted that the TAMC Board would need to give direction on this question, as the RPC is only an advisory body.

Mr. Park reviewed the full buildout vision scenario of increasing service between the Bay Area and San Luis Obispo as well as a new around-the-bay rail service.

Committee member Smith stated it was premature to make any decisions about the around-the-bay service. He said the Agency can commit to the concept of a regional rail project and defer the decision as to how it would be implemented and specifics about station locations and equipment technologies.

Chair LeBarre suggested that MST could be the entity to operate the around-the-bay service, as they have a good relationship with the Federal Transit Administration that may help in getting funding for the project.

Committee member Davis asked if the study contemplates futuristic technologies such as magnetic levitation or hyperloop. Ms. Watson noted that the Committee would be discussing the fleet strategy and cost estimate memos at their next meeting.

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 construction team continues to make progress on Package 1. She noted that the team currently anticipates completion of the project in mid-December 2020. TAMC is organizing a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with the option for virtual participation, planned for mid-January 2021 at the train station.

Chair LeBarre suggested a wallpaper of trains for participants to use if it's a zoom virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony meeting.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on property acquisition and may bring more information on settlements to the Board in closed session at the December meeting.

Ms. Watson reported that design kick-off meetings with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and a with Caltrain and Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) are scheduled for early November.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson announced the next Rail Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 11, 2021.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update to this Committee in October includes outreach for the Coast Rail studies that are underway and a Policy Committee meeting on December 11, 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail service project construction and operation costs are still 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 Council include all 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 Policy Committee met on December 11, 2020 (see agenda, **web attachment**) to discuss legislative issues, adopt a 2021 legislative platform, approve the concept of applying for operations funding in the next round of State Rail Assistance funds, and receive updates on all the various overlapping Network Integration Studies and other projects happening along the coast rail corridor.

The 2021 Policy Committee meeting schedule is tentatively as follows: March 19, June 18, September 17, and December 17. They will be virtual meetings until in-person meetings are once again permitted.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [December 11, 2020 CRCC Policy Committee Agenda Packet](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Coast Rail Coordinating Council Appointment**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

SUMMARY:

Mayor Dave Potter (RPC Vice Chair) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (RPC Chair) have been appointed to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, and Mayor Potter has been its Chair, for several years. Staff asks the RPC to consider recommending the Board reappoint both to the Council for 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Agency budget includes funding for Board member travel to Coast Rail Coordinating Council and associated meetings. In the near term, these meetings are expected to be virtual.

DISCUSSION:

In January 2020, the TAMC Board approved the Rail Policy Committee recommended 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 2022. The appointment involves attending up to four meetings of the Committee and potentially representing the group at a legislative day in Sacramento with the Intercity Passenger Rail group and the California Passenger Rail Summit.



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **City of Monterey Sea Level Rise Study**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE presentation from City of Monterey Senior Associate Planner Fernanda Roveri on the City's sea level rise study.

SUMMARY:

The City of Monterey Transportation Adaptation Plan presents options for preparing for the anticipated sea level rise impacts to downtown Monterey. Only one of the options under consideration - the sea wall - would accommodate the future plans for rail service to the City's downtown along the existing Monterey Branch Line Right-of-Way. Other options could be amended to include re-routing the rail tracks along with the roadways and other infrastructure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The plan shows the estimated construction costs of the adaptation options as follows:

- 1A - Del Monte Viaduct: \$297 million
- 1B(i) - Pearl Viaduct: \$101 million
- 1B(ii) - Del Monte Realignment: \$124 million
- 1C - Fremont Street: \$32 million
- 2(i) - Sea wall with elevated trail: \$56 million
- 2(ii) - Vertical concrete seawall: \$89 million

DISCUSSION:

City of Monterey planner Fernanda Roveri will present an update on the draft City's Transportation Adaptation Plan (**web attachments**) and seek input from the Rail Policy Committee. Based on the public survey results and stakeholder input, the City of Monterey has selected these options for the draft City of Monterey Transportation Adaptation Plan:

- **OPTION 1A:** Retreat via Del Monte Avenue viaduct: A pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicle viaduct would maintain access to Cannery Row side of Monterey with the event of sea level rise.
- **OPTION 1B(i):** Retreat via Pearl Street viaduct: abandon Del Monte Avenue and redirect pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicle traffic to Pearl Street, which is widened and elevated.
- **OPTION 1B(ii):** Del Monte realignment to Pearl Street: similar to 1B (i), renaming Pearl St. Del Monte and including an alternative route through the neighborhood near the Naval Postgraduate School.

- OPTION 1C: Fremont Street improvements: all traffic is redirected to Fremont Street, which is elevated and improved with a bus-only lane and a parking structure to encourage visitors to park and ride on the transit corridor.
- OPTION 2: Flood barriers/sea wall: An elevated coastal trail on a 13-foot high sea wall across the street from Lake El Estero or an approximately 17-foot high vertical concrete seawall keeping the path at grade (losing the ocean views). A sea wall could be erected on the coast side of the existing Coastal Trail at the Municipal Beach between Fisherman's Wharf and Park Avenue. The sea wall would provide near term protection against waves and coastal surge and in the long term would provide a permanent barrier against higher seas.

Only Option 2 could accommodate future rail as currently proposed to run into downtown Monterey along the existing Monterey Branch Line corridor. The other options could be amended to include the re-routing or elevation of rail tracks, and associated stations, along with the re-routing of roads and other surface and subsurface infrastructure.

The final plan will be scheduled for City Council adoption in February 2021. Following its adoption, the City will seek funding for additional studies, including expanded cost estimates and infrastructure assessments, prior to identifying a preferred approach.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [December 8, 2020 City of Monterey Planning Commission report with links to the study and other resources](#)
- Recordings of both sea level rise workshops are available here: monterey.org/climatechange



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: Rail Network Integration Study Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update and **PROVIDE** input on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

SUMMARY:

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in November include the fifth Network Advisory Committee and completion of a revised fleet strategy memo, an updated governance and operation memo, and a draft capital cost estimate memo.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The study has a budget of \$500,000, funded out of the state Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program: \$350,000 for consultant costs and \$150,000 for staff and in-house costs. The study will be the foundation for future applications for rail capital and operations grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study focuses on 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. 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.

The study is intended to provide information for the TAMC Rail Policy Committee to consider in recommendations to the TAMC Board of Directors as to next steps on implementing rail projects in Monterey County connecting to the Central Coast and the Northern California megaregion.

The Network Advisory Committee (NAC) met on November 30, 2020 and discussed the future vision scenario, governance options, and fleet strategies. The next NAC meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

The team also met with partner agencies to discuss the study, including Caltrain, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

The following deliverables are online as a web attachment:

- Draft Fleet Strategies Memo, which identifies potential fleet strategies, describes fleet size needs, technical

operating requirements, and fleet procurement strategies for each of the three service concepts (Initial, Phased, and Vision) for the region's future rail network.

- Updated Governance & Operations Memo, which fleshes out the previous draft memo presented at the November Committee meeting with examples of each governance option and recommendations for each phase of service implementation.
- Draft Cost Estimates Memo, which lays out the capital cost implications of the phased scenarios.

Future deliverables expected for a future Committee meeting:

- Draft Ridership Estimates Memo
- Draft Network Integration Study

The team will present an update on work completed to date and solicit input on the work accomplished to date and the path forward to implementation of the memo's recommendations.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Draft Fleet Strategies Memo](#)
- [Draft Governance and Operations Memo](#)
- [Draft Cost Estimates Memo](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in November include the continued construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and coordination efforts with Union Pacific, Caltrans, Caltrain, and the City of Gilroy 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 at \$81 million. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance. Package 1 is under construction by MPE Engineering for an original contract amount of \$7,487,989 with a contingency fund of \$1,123,200. Approved change orders to date total \$772,875.74, or 68.8% of the contingency fund approved by the Board.

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 is proceeding with construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Construction of Package 1: Salinas Station Improvements

TAMC hired Monterey Peninsula Engineering (MPE) for construction of Package 1, MNS Engineers as Construction Managers on the project, and HDR Engineering to provide design support during construction. In November-December 2020, the construction team continued work on Railroad Avenue and the transit plaza. The construction work is near complete. TAMC is organizing a ribbon-cutting photo op, with the option for virtual participation, for Friday, January 15 at noon. Staff is coordinating with the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City.

Property Acquisition for Package 2: Salinas Layover Facility

On December 4, 2019, the Transportation Agency Board approved Resolutions of Necessity on portions of four parcels and one full parcel needed for the Salinas layover facility. TAMC staff continues to oversee the right-of-way consulting team of AR/WS and Meyers Nave to further negotiations and finalize the acquisitions.

Final Design for Package 2 and Package 3: Gilroy Station & Track Improvements; Operations Scenarios

The final design team held the following meetings to further the project's design:

- November 3 - Union Pacific kick-off meeting
- November 6 - Caltrain and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) kick-off meeting
- December 11 - City of Gilroy kick-off meeting
- December 14 - Caltrain 75% design comment resolution workshop
- December 21 - VTA design workshop
- January 6 - Union Pacific design review

Staff has scheduled a meeting for January 20 to kick off the design review with the City of Salinas Development Review Committee.

Staff met with the Northern California Rail Working Group on November 5 and Caltrans staff on November 19, December 9 and 10. Caltrans has hired Deutsche Bahn (DB) Engineering & Consulting USA Inc. to develop a strategic service deployment playbook for the near-term extension of Caltrain to Salinas as well as the potential extension of an intercity train from San Jose to San Luis Obispo. Because they are taking on this strategic negotiation with the railroad and operators, staff withdrew the negotiations request for qualifications approved by the Board in August.

Staff will provide a verbal update on all activities at the meeting.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Correspondence**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE correspondence attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [November 18, 2020 letter from the City of Santa Cruz to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, re: Transit Corridors Alternatives Analysis](#)
- [December 2, 2020 letter from Carl Sedoryk, MST General Manager/CEO, re: Request to amend funding agreement for MST Surf! busway and bus rapid transit project](#)
- [December 18, 2020 letter to Bruce McPherson, Chair, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, re: Transit Corridors Alternatives Analysis: Support for Rail Alternatives](#)
- [December 18, 2020 save-the-date for the January 15 ribbon-cutting at the Salinas train station](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Reports**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [October 2020 Capitol Corridor monthly report](#)
- [November 2020 Capitol Corridor monthly report](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [October 31, 2020 article in the Paso Robles Daily News, "Expanded Amtrak interline bus service to be reinstated"](#)
- [November 2, 2020 article in Mass Transit, "MST \(quickly\) closes on \\$8.45 million TIFIA loan under USDOT rural initiative"](#)
- [November 4, 2020 article in the San Francisco Chronicle, "Measure RR: Caltrain wins bid for crucial tax increase"](#)
- [November 5, 2020 article in PublicCEO, "Caltrain celebrates passage of revenue measure"](#)
- [November 20, 2020 article in StreetsBlog CAL, "Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin on the Future of Transportation: Transit, equity, climate are all new areas of focus for what used to be the State Highway Department"](#)
- [December 4, 2020 article in the San Mateo Daily Journal, "Caltrain to furlough 40 positions starting in January"](#)
- [December 17, 2020 article in CalMatters, "A bumpy ride for California's Amtrak as pandemic surges"](#)
- [December 18, 2020 item on StreetsBlog San Francisco, "Commentary: Bring back the night train"](#)