

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*FINAL Minutes of March 2, 2015*  
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	MAR 14	APR 14	MAY 14	JUNE 14	AUG 14	SEP 14	OCT 14	NOV 14	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P(A)	P	<b>C</b>	P	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	-	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P(A)	-	<b>N</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair ( <del>K. Lee</del> , J. Mohammadi)	P(A)	P	<b>C</b>	P	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	P	-	<b>E</b>	P	P	<b>E</b>	E	<b>E</b>	-	<b>E</b>	P(A)
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	E	<b>L</b>	P	<b>L</b>	P
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair ( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano)	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	P(A)	<b>L</b>	P	<b>L</b>	E
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	-	-	<b>E</b>	P(A)	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	-
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Ingersoll)	P	P	<b>D</b>	P	P	<b>D</b>	P	<b>D</b>	P	<b>D</b>	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P		P	-		E		P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	-		E		-		-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	P (TC)	-		-	-		-		P		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, <del>L. Rheinheimer</del> )	P(A)	P		-	-		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-		-	-		-		-		-
<b>STAFF</b>											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	-		P	P		P		P		E
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P		P	P		P		-		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P		P		P		P
A. Green, Transp. Planner	P	P		P	-		P		-		P
M. Zeller, Sr. Transp. Planner	P	-		-	P		E		P		P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	P	P		-	P		E		E		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator					P		-		-		-
Virginia Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner							P		P		P
<b>E – Excused</b> <b>VC – Video Conference</b> <b>P(A) – Alternate</b> <b>TC – Teleconference</b>											

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

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Eliza Yu	AMBAG	MacGregor Eddy	Salinas Californian
Eric Petersen	Salinas resident	Doreen Liberto-Blanck	City of King
Chris Flescher	Rail PAC	Wayne Short	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Scott Ottmar	City of Seaside	Sheena Patel	HDR Engineering, Inc.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Rubio/ Chavez/ unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the January 12, 2015 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Receive report on Monterey Branch Line right of way easement for a proposed Cal Am water pipeline.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) regarding a proposed express busway on the Monterey Branch Line.

Hunter Harvath, MST's Assistant General Manager, Finance & Administration, presented an update on MST's proposal to build an express busway on the Monterey Branch Line. He noted that MST is looking to apply for \$9.8 million in cap and trade funding to match proposed federal funding for the project.

Committee Member Smith asked if MST's express busway project would require property from the City of Monterey. Mr. Harvath responded that the Mohr property that the City acquired would be used for parking.

Committee Alternate Markey said she was glad that MST is still working on this project, but expressed concern about the competitiveness of the funding options.

Chair Potter noted that MST should clearly define right-of-way specifications for this project and asked what MST needed from TAMC. Mr. Harvath said MST would be asking TAMC for a letter of commitment. Chair Potter noted that it would specify that the MST busway could not be in the way of other potential future uses, such as the light rail service and the water pipeline.

Committee Member Smith asked about the timeline of the express busway project. Mr. Harvath stated that this project has a five-to-ten year completion time after funding is awarded.

**5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that progress since the last update to the Committee about the project on January 12, 2015 includes a meeting with the City of Salinas City Council Intermodal Transportation Center subcommittee, regular check-in calls with the consultant team for the design phase, and meetings with right-of-way consultants.

Ms. Watson introduced Wayne Short and Sheena Patel, Salinas Rail Extension Kick-Start design consultants. Mr. Short and Ms. Patel introduced themselves to the Committee, and mentioned that they are excited to be part of the design team and look forward to seeing the Salinas Rail Extension Project come to fruition. Ms. Watson noted that the design team is working on expediting the design of the Lincoln Avenue extension, since it could be used by MST and Greyhound in advance of the implementation of Capitol Corridor rail service.

Committee Member Markey asked about the Agency's application for cap and trade grant funding. Ms. Watson reported that staff is working on an application for \$23 million in cap and trade funding for the Pajaro/Watsonville station. Ms. Watson noted that it is a competitive program, and applications are due on April 10. Staff is working on gathering letters of support from partner agencies, as well local, state and federal representatives. Chair Potter noted that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council supports this project. He also directed staff to contact the Agency's state legislative analyst for help with putting the application together.

Ms. Watson also reported on the progress of right-of-way acquisition for the project. Committee Member Smith asked if property acquisition for the project would be in Salinas only, which Ms. Watson confirmed was the case for the Kick-Start project; but that if the cap and trade grant was approved, there was property needed for the Pajaro/ Watsonville station as well.

**6. COAST DAYLIGHT**

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that progress since the last update to the Committee about the Coast Daylight on January 12, 2015 includes a meeting of the California Intercity Rail Corridor chairs and vice chairs; a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee and a Technical Committee meeting; meetings with the team working on the environmental review; and with Amtrak regarding the feasibility study.

Ms. Watson reported that January 7 was the deadline for comments on the Coast Daylight draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Salinas-San Luis Obispo portion of the Coast Daylight project. Significant comments were received from the City of King, pertaining to the description of their multimodal station and the location of the siding, and from residents of San Luis Obispo County pertaining to three proposed curve realignments in that county.

Doreen Liberto-Blanck, City of King, noted that the City of King's concern with the Coast Daylight EIR/EIS is that it did not reflect the City's most recent conceptual design for the

multimodal station. Ms. Liberto-Blanck stated that the new design is likely to decrease environmental impacts, as compared to the version in the draft EIR/EIS. Ms. Watson noted that the City has not finalized its conceptual design, and that the Coast Daylight EIR/EIS is a programmatic environmental document. She noted that individual projects would need their own environmental analysis. She also reported the Final EIR/EIS was expected to be completed in June.

Ms. Watson noted that the Assembly and Senate Select Committees on Rail would be holding a joint hearing in Sacramento on April 28.

Chair Potter also noted that the Coast Daylight offers a complete trip from San Diego to San Francisco, but that Caltrain's electrification project may affect this connection.

Committee Alternate Josh Stratton asked about the return on investment for the Agency on the Coast Daylight project. Ms. Watson noted the project is funded by state rail funds. Chair Potter noted the implementation of new rail service would be a benefit to residents of Monterey County as well as the tourism industry.

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

None

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.