

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)**

**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*FINAL Minutes of January 6, 2014*

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	JAN 13	FEB 13	MAR 13	APR 13	MAY 13	JUN 13	AUG 13	SEPT 13	OCT 13	NOV 13	JAN 14
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P(A)	P	<b>C</b>	E	P	<b>C</b>	-	P	-	<b>C</b>	P
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	P(A)	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)	-	<b>A</b>	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	<b>A</b>	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P	-	<b>N</b>	E	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	<b>N</b>	E
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair ( <del>K. Lee</del> , J. Mohammadi)	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	P	<b>C</b>	P	P(A)	P	<b>C</b>	P
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	P	-	<b>E</b>	P(A)	P	<b>E</b>	P	P	P	<b>E</b>	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey – Vice Chair (C. Della Sala, R. Deal)	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	E
K. Craig, Salinas ( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano)	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	P	P	P	<b>L</b>	P
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	P(A)	<b>E</b>	P(A)	P(A)	<b>E</b>	P(A)	P	P	<b>E</b>	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (A. Edwards)	P	P	<b>D</b>	P	E	<b>D</b>	P	P(A)	P(A)	<b>D</b>	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P		P	P		P	E	P		E
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	P(A)	P(A)		-	-		P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)
M. McCumsey, Caltrans District 5	-	-		-	-		E	E	-		-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath)	-	P(A)		P	-		P(A)	P	P(A) (TC)		P(A)
M. Nelson., Airport (R. Searle)	P	-		-	-		-	-	-		-
<b>STAFF</b>											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P		P	P		P	P	P		P
T. Muck, Dep. Exec. Director	P	P		E	P		E	P	P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P		P	P		P	P	P		E
A. Green, Transp. Planner	P	-		P	-		P	P	P		P
A. Cook, Assoc. Transp. Planner	P	P		P	-		E	-	-		-
M. Zeller, Sr. Transp. Planner	P	P		P	-		E	-	-		P
H. Myers, Assoc. Transp. Planning Engineer	P	P		P	P		P	P	-		-
M. Montiel, Admin. Assistant	-	-		-	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**

Chris Flescher Rail Pass. Assoc. of CA                      Tim O'Halloran                      City of Seaside

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bruce Delgado, Marina thanked Todd Muck and Ariana Green for their presentation on the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan at the last Marina City Council meeting.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Rubio/ Armenta/ unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the October 7, 2013 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Received the final 2013 California Rail Plan.

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**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. 2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**M/S/C** Armenta/ Craig/ unanimous

The committee reviewed and commented on the draft 2014 Legislative Program.

Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, gave an update on the draft 2014 Legislative Program, which incorporates input from the October Transportation Agency Board meeting. Items that have been added since October are funding for complete streets projects and recognition that the Highway 101 corridor is of state and federal significance. The final 2014 Legislative Program will go to the Transportation Agency Board for adoption in January.

Committee Member Delgado inquired about item 2F, asking if indexing the gas tax to inflation would be enough to cover costs of transportation, given that vehicles are increasingly fuel efficient. Executive Director Debbie Hale responded that additional sources of funding will be needed and that the ultimate goal is to raise the gas tax. Ms. Hale noted that there has been some experimentation using a vehicle miles travelled tax vs. a gas tax in Oregon, and that California is considering a similar pilot program.

**5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT**

Received an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Executive Director Debbie Hale and Chair Potter provided an update on the Salinas Rail Extension project. Since the last meeting, Chair Potter met with Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority and Transportation Agency staff gave presentations to the Gilroy, Morgan Hill and Salinas City Councils. Chair Potter reported that there is an effort to secure more funding for existing rail lines and rail extension projects statewide. He added there seems to be more support for rail statewide than in the past and those that oppose the California High Speed Rail project may support the maintenance or enhancement of existing rail infrastructure.

Ms. Hale reported that the preproposal conference for the rail design work was attended by

twenty consultants representing thirteen firms. The proposals are due on January 9, 2014. The interview panel will be composed of representatives from several organizations, including Monterey-Salinas Transit.

Committee Member Armenta asked for data regarding the possible use of the Rail to Salinas by those traveling to the Veterans Affairs clinic in Palo Alto. Ms. Hale responded that staff would look into it further.

**6. COAST DAYLIGHT TRAIN SERVICE**

The Committee received an update on the planned Coast Daylight train service.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that the project will add new train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles and will stop in Pajaro, Salinas, King City and Soledad. Staff has been working with Amtrak and Caltrain to negotiate with Union Pacific and has been attending meetings with the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Chair Potter announced that there will be a Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting in Monterey, although it is currently being rescheduled for a different date.

Committee Alternate Harvath asked if the Greyhound lobby group has been vocal about the project. Chair Potter replied that he does not think they are on their radar.

Committee Member Delgado asked about the cost estimates, what the range is and if they are accurate. Chair Potter replied that they hope to bring more accurate cost estimates to the next meeting with the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. Mr. Delgado also asked what the \$25 Million would cover and if a cost-benefit analysis has been done.

Executive Director Hale replied the \$25 Million would go toward improvements such as sidings and layover facilities. A cost-benefit analysis has most likely been done, but she will ask Pete Rodgers both questions for a more in-depth response.

Committee Alternate Gowin asked if the train will provide service during commute times. Ms. Hale replied that the service is not directly geared toward commuters, but does provide an important connection between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

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

None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.