

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Final Minutes of January 12, 2015*  
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

MacGregor Eddy asked if Greyhound was still relocating its operations to the Salinas train station. Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, responded that the City was working on this, and that she would confirm and get back to Ms. Eddy.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Rubio/ Armenta/ unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the October 6, 2014 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

Staff noted a typo in the heading that would be fixed for the record.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**4. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

M/S/C Rubio/ Craig/ unanimous

The Committee received and commented on the draft 2015 Legislative Program and approved the draft legislative program with a modification to state item 9S.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. She noted that the program also notifies state representatives of the Agency’s position on issues of key importance to the agency. Ms. Watson noted a change by the Executive Committee to item 3S that would be reflected in the final version, going to the Board for adoption on January 28.

Committee Alternate Markey expressed concern about the language of state item 9S, “work with partner agencies to reach agreement on proposals for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform and support incentive-based compliance measures, rather than corrective policies”. She asked for clarification on the meaning of “incentive-based compliance measures,” and noted her concern that it might undermine environmental protection. Ms. Watson said that the language of issue 9S was suggested by the Agency’s legislative consultant to support efforts to streamline the CEQA process for transportation projects. The Committee agreed to staff modifying the language to ensure environmental protections are maintained.

Committee Member Armenta asked why the Agency’s legislative consultant was not present to answer questions about the legislative program. Ms. Watson said that staff has always presented the draft legislative program to the Committee. Chair Potter directed staff to invite the consultant to present future reports on legislative matters to the Committee.

5. **COAST DAYLIGHT**

The Committee received an update on the status of 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 in October 2014 includes hearings on the Coast Corridor Draft Program Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). She noted that staff also participated in meetings of the Coast Daylight Policy and Technical committees, of the intercity passenger rail corridors group, with the team working on the environmental review, and with Amtrak regarding the feasibility study.

Ms. Watson noted that staff received comments on the Coast Corridor Draft EIS/EIR at each of the hearings, and a thorough comment letter from the City of King, focused mainly on the description of their plans for the Multimodal Station and the location of the siding.

Committee Alternate Markey asked if there were other comments that were received. Ms. Watson said that comments were also received at the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments hearing. As a result of these comments, some of the proposed sidings in San Luis Obispo county will be removed, and the proposed siding in King City will be relocated. She noted that the final EIS/EIR is scheduled to be released this spring.

Chair Potter reported that both he and Ms. Watson attended meetings on intercity rail in Sacramento, and said that these meetings went well. Chair Potter said that he is optimistic about the future of rail in Monterey County now that there is support for rail projects at the state level.

Vice Chair Craig asked about the status of negotiations with Union Pacific. Ms. Watson said that one of the reasons for having Amtrak do a feasibility study is so that they can take the lead in negotiations with Union Pacific. Ms. Watson also noted that there is a new staff contact at Union Pacific.

MacGregor Eddy noted the improvement in on-time performance of the Coast Starlight.

6. **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 October 2014 includes a kick-off meeting with the consultant team for the design phase, a meeting with the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center Steering Committee, and meetings with right-of-way consultants.

Ms. Watson noted the City was planning a celebration of “Founders’ Day” on Saturday, March 7 at the train station. As both Chair Potter and Vice Chair Craig are likely to be in Washington, DC (with Ms. Watson) at that time, Committee Member and TAMC Vice Chair Armenta said that he would attend and speak on behalf of TAMC and the Rail Policy Committee.

Chair Potter asked about the status of the right-of-way appraisals. Senior Transportation Planner Michael Zeller said that appraisals were drafted, but the review appraiser did not approve the draft

appraisals, despite multiple revisions and many meetings discussing necessary changes. Staff and the rest of the right-of-way consultant team attempted to resolve the conflict but were not successful, and so the appraiser's contract was terminated. Mr. Zeller noted that proposals are due on Thursday for the new contract for right-of-way work, which will include a new appraiser. Committee Member Smith asked if a new appraiser would be able to use some of the work produced by the appraiser; Ms. Watson said that is not likely.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that staff is planning on applying for cap and trade funds for the Pajaro/Watsonville Station. Chair Potter applauded this, and noted that this would be a great opportunity for a partnership with Santa Cruz.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
None

8. **ADJOURN**  
Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.