

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Final Minutes of May 4, 2015
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

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

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

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Flescher RailPAC
Eliza Yu AMBAG

Michael Powers
MacGregor Eddy

King City
Salinas Californian

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Rubio/Craig/ unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the March 2, 2015 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **COAST DAYLIGHT PROJECT UPDATE**

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 on March 2 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee and Technical Committee, meetings with the team working on the environmental review, and with Amtrak regarding the feasibility study.

Ms. Watson reported that the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is expected to adopt the final programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Review document for the Coast Corridor (San Luis Obispo – Salinas) at its August 5 meeting.

Ms. Watson reported that Chair Potter and staff attended the 2015 California Passenger Rail Summit on April 29. On April 28, staff attended meetings at the Capitol with legislators to discuss the importance of a predictable funding stream for intercity rail. She noted that the legislators she talked to expressed their support for intercity rail.

Chair Potter mentioned that the Summit provided a great networking opportunity for the Agency.

Ms. Watson reported that staff also met with California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) staff to discuss proposed changes to the scheduled slot of the planned Coast Daylight service.

Committee Member Rubio expressed concern about the proposed changes to the schedule for the Coast Daylight. Chair Potter noted that the proposed new timeslot would better serve Santa Barbara and Los Angeles area commuters. Ms. Watson mentioned that staff will continue to engage in these discussions with CalSTA as they work on the State Rail Plan update.

5. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress since the last update to the Committee about the project on March 2 includes meetings with the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center Steering Committee and Gilroy station team, and meetings in Washington, DC. She noted that Transportation Agency staff submitted an application for cap and trade funding for the Pajaro /Watsonville station project on April 10 and are now working on an application for federal funds.

Ms. Watson provided the Committee with a revised draft design for the Salinas station, noting that City of Salinas, MST and Caltrans staff have been actively involved in the process.

Committee Member Delgado asked about the rail ridership and whether the station will have enough parking spaces. Ms. Watson noted that the consultant team was reviewing that question, and that the station's parking lot will have multiple uses.

Committee Member Delgado asked how much water the landscaping treatments would require, and if there has been coordination with Salinas Waste Management on trash receptacles. Ms. Watson responded staff would request input on these issues from the design team.

Committee Alternate Stratton asked about some of the numbering in the design. Ms. Watson noted that the numbering corresponds to the First Mayors House draft Memorandum of Understanding issues, such as accessible parking spaces close to the house.

Committee Alternate Stratton asked if the draft design included elements from the City of Salinas' Vibrancy Plan. Ms. Watson responded that the design team incorporated some elements from the adopted City plan and provided for the future plans that the City may pursue.

Michael Zeller, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that staff has been working with the property acquisition team to prepare appraisals for property owners. Mr. Zeller noted that once the appraisals are finalized, the property acquisition team will contact the properties and initiate negotiations.

Ms. Watson reported that the Gilroy station team meeting on April 2 stressed the importance of interagency coordination, since multiple agencies will have transit projects in Gilroy over the next few years.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that staff submitted a grant application for \$23 million of cap and trade funding via the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program for the Pajaro/Watsonville multimodal station. Ms. Murillo noted that staff secured 19 support letters from local and regional stakeholder agencies, state and federal legislators. Notification of funding award is expected by June 30.

Committee Member Bodem asked if the application required a funding match. Ms. Watson said no match was required, but that staff listed the project as part of the overall Rail Extension to Monterey County project, and listed the \$70 million of kick-start funding as match funding.

Committee Member Armenta suggested reaching out to the Transportation Agency's legislative analyst or MST for assistance on setting up meetings with California Air Resources Board staff.

Ms. Murillo reported that staff is also preparing a grant application through the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program, and will use outside help in preparing the required benefit-cost analysis.

Ms. Watson reported that on March 9-11, Chair Potter, Committee Member Craig, and staff met with Federal representatives in Washington DC to discuss Transportation Agency priorities, and federal transit funding eligibility for the Rail Extension project.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Murillo asked the Committee to complete a Title VI representation survey. She noted that as a recipient of federal funds, TAMC is required to prepare a Title VI Program and Language Assistance Plan. The plan must include a table depicting minority representation on TAMC advisory committees and councils. The results of this survey will be included in the Title VI Program.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:53p.m.