

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*FINAL Minutes of October 6, 2014*  
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

|   | OCT<br>13    | NOV<br>13 | JAN<br>14 | FEB<br>14 | MAR<br>14 | APR<br>14 | MAY<br>14 | JUNE<br>14 | AUG<br>14 | SEP<br>14 | OCT<br>14 |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| F. Armenta, Dist. 1<br>(J. Martinez)                                      | -            | <b>C</b>  | P         | <b>C</b>  | P(A)      | P         | <b>C</b>  | P          | P(A)      | <b>C</b>  | P         |
| L. Calcagno, Dist. 2<br>(H. Gowin)  | P(A)         | <b>A</b>  | P(A)      | <b>A</b>  | -         | P(A)      | <b>A</b>  | P(A)       | P(A)      | <b>A</b>  | P(A)      |
| J. Parker, Dist. 4<br>(K. Markey)   | P(A)         | <b>N</b>  | E         | <b>N</b>  | P(A)      | -         | <b>N</b>  | P(A)       | P(A)      | <b>N</b>  | P(A)      |
| D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair<br>( <del>K. Lee</del> ,<br>J. Mohammadi)       | P            | <b>C</b>  | P         | <b>C</b>  | P(A)      | P         | <b>C</b>  | P          | P(A)      | <b>C</b>  | P(A)      |
| B. Delgado, Marina<br>(F. O'Connell)                                      | P            | <b>E</b>  | P         | <b>E</b>  | P         | -         | <b>E</b>  | P          | P         | <b>E</b>  | E         |
| F. Sollecito, Monterey<br>(C. Della Sala, R. Deal)                        | P            | <b>L</b>  | E         | <b>L</b>  | P         | P         | <b>L</b>  | P          | P         | <b>L</b>  | E         |
| K. Craig, Salinas,<br>Vice Chair<br>( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano) | P            | <b>L</b>  | P         | <b>L</b>  | P         | P         | <b>L</b>  | P          | P         | <b>L</b>  | P(A)      |
| K. Morgan, Sand City<br>(L. Gomez)  | P            | <b>E</b>  | P         | <b>E</b>  | -         | -         | <b>E</b>  | P(A)       | P         | <b>E</b>  | P         |
| R. Rubio, Seaside<br>(A. Edwards)   | P(A)         | <b>D</b>  | P         | <b>D</b>  | P         | P         | <b>D</b>  | P          | P         | <b>D</b>  | P         |
| A. Chavez, Soledad<br>(F. Ledesma)  | P            |           | E         |           | P         | P         |           | P          | -         |           | E         |
| M. Twomey, AMBAG<br>(H. Adamson)  | P(A)         |           | P(A)      |           | P(A)      | P(A)      |           | P(A)       | -         |           | E         |
| M. McCumsey,<br>Caltrans District 5                                       | -            |           | -         |           | P<br>(TC) | -         |           | -          | -         |           | -         |
| C. Sedoryk, MST<br>(H. Harvath)   | P(A)<br>(TC) |           | P(A)      |           | P(A)      | P         |           | -          | -         |           | P(A)      |
| B. Sabo, Airport<br>(R. Searle)   | -            |           | -         |           | -         | -         |           | -          | -         |           | -         |
| <b>STAFF</b>  |              |           |           |           |           |           |           |            |           |           |           |
| D. Hale, Exec. Director   | P            |           | P         |           | P         | -         |           | P          | P         |           | P         |
| T. Muck,<br>Deputy, Exec. Director  | P            |           | P         |           | P         | P         |           | P          | P         |           | P         |
| C. Watson,<br>Principal Transp. Planner                                   | P            |           | E         |           | P         | P         |           | P          | P         |           | P         |
| A. Green,<br>Transp. Planner  | P            |           | P         |           | P         | P         |           | P          | -         |           | P         |
| M. Zeller,<br>Sr. Transp. Planner   | -            |           | P         |           | P         | -         |           | -          | P         |           | E         |
| H. Myers,<br>Sr. Transp. Engineer   | -            |           | -         |           | P         | P         |           | -          | P         |           | E         |
| Theresa Wright,<br>Outreach Coordinator                                   |              |           |           |           |           |           |           |            | P         |           | -         |
| Virginia Murillo,<br>Asst. Transp. Planner                                |              |           |           |           |           |           |           |            |           |           | P         |

**E – Excused**                      **VC – Video Conference**  
**P(A) – Alternate**                **TC – Teleconference**

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

Committee Member Rubio, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

|                |                 |                |  |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Eliza Yu       | AMBAG           | Michael Powers | City of King   |
| Tim O'Halloran | City of Seaside | MacGregor Eddy | <i>The Californian</i> columnist,<br>"We Could Car Less" |
| Chris Flescher | RailPAC         |                |  |

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Staff introduced Virginia Murillo, TAMC's new Assistant Transportation Planner, who will be working on the rail projects.

---

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Markey/ Armenta/ unanimous

**3.1** Approved minutes of the August 4, 2014 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

**3.2** Approved 2015 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

**3.3** Received information on cap and trade funding program guideline comments.

Committee Member Armenta requested that TAMC take a more aggressive approach to securing cap and trade funding, including legislative efforts, and suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting. Chair Rubio suggested the Executive Committee was the best forum for that discussion.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

---

**4. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update 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 along the Monterey Branch Line. He noted that, according to current Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations for Very Small Starts projects, MST had to remove toll credits from the project funding. He also noted that the proposed 10-mile busway on the Monterey Branch Line has a cost estimate of approximately \$30 million. MST is pursuing other monies (cap and trade funds, for example) as a replacement for toll credits. Until MST can secure the local match, the FTA will not allow the project to go into the Project Development phase. Mr. Harvath thanked the Committee for its support.

Committee Member Markey asked what the funding shortfall was without toll credits. Mr. Harvath said MST needs \$5 million to match the federal grant, assuming a \$1 million in-kind match for the value of the right-of-way.

Committee Member Morgan asked how many buses would be running the service. Mr. Harvath said the grant program requires 10-minute headways during peak travel hours, which meant a minimum of six buses per hour from about 6:30am to 9 am and 3:30 pm to 6 pm. Mr. Morgan asked about the route and termini; Mr. Harvath said the proposed route was from Marina to Monterey, with specifics to be determined during the project development phase.

Acting Chair Rubio asked whether MST had discussed the project with the Naval Postgraduate School and/or the Defense Language Institute as potential funding partners. Mr. Harvath noted MST has a great relationship with both schools, but that as they are federally funded, any contribution would not be considered a local match.

5. **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 the Coast Daylight project is a joint Caltrans/Amtrak effort headed up by the Coast Rail Coordinating Council that would extend the existing Pacific Surfliner train from Los Angeles and Paso Robles to San Francisco. Progress on this project includes meetings with Amtrak regarding their operational feasibility study for the service; a draft report is expected to be available for review in November. Staff has also been working with San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and consultants on the administrative draft federal and state environmental documents; the draft documents will be on the TAMC agenda for the December 3, 2014 Board meeting for a hearing.

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 August 4, 2014 includes work on the contract for the design phase, a meeting with Watsonville Mayor Karina Cervantez and Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission staff, and meetings with the right-of way consultants. She noted that on June 25, 2014, the Board of Directors approved entering into a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. to perform final design for the Kick-Start project. The contract has now been executed, and staff will hold a kick-off meeting with the consultants and introduce the consultants to the relevant stakeholders, including this Committee, as soon as possible. Ms. Watson also presented the draft train schedule developed by the Capital Corridor and Amtrak.

Committee Alternate Markey noted her support for the 7:30 am departure out of Salinas.

Committee Alternate Gowin asked for more detail on what is funded by the \$70 million secured for the project. Ms. Watson described the fully-funded Kick-Start project and the next steps to be funded by future funding. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that the next priority phases are vehicle acquisition and the Pajaro/ Watsonville station. Potential funding sources for future phases includes the cap and trade programs.

MacGregor Eddy asked whether the ridership estimates would take into account current passengers on the Amtrak thruway bus service, including the MST Line 55 San Jose Express bus. Ms. Watson said she would inquire with the Capital Corridor.

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

Committee Member Morgan mentioned his drive to the meeting on Highway 68 was smooth sailing. Others on the Committee recommended against taking that drive during rush hour.

8. **ADJOURN**

Acting Chair Rubio adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.