

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
FINAL Minutes of September 9, 2013
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	SEP 12	OCT 12	NOV 12	JAN 13	FEB 13	MAR 13	APR 13	MAY 13	JUN 13	AUG 13	SEPT 13
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	C	P	P(A)	P(A)	P	C	E	P	C	-	P
L. Calcagno, Dist. 2 (H. Gowin)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	-	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	N	P(A)	E	P	-	N	E	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee , J. Mohammadi)	C	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	E	-	-	P	-	E	P(A)	P	E	P	P
F. Sollecito, Monterey – Vice Chair (C. Della Sala, R. Deal)	L	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	L	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas (R. Russell , J. Serrano)	L	P	P	P	P	L	P	P	L	P	P
S. Matarazzo, Sand City (L. Gomez)	E	P	P	P	P(A)	E	P(A)	P(A)	E	P(A)	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (A. Edwards)	D	P	P	P	P	D	P	E	D	P	P(A)
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)		P	E	P	P		P	P		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 (M. Hernandez, M. Gallant)		P(A)	-	-	P(A)		P	-		P(A)	P
M. Nelson., Airport (R. Searle)		P	P	P	-		-	-		-	-
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P	P	P	P		P	P		P	P
T. Muck, Dep. Exec. Director		P	P	P	P		E	P		E	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner		P	P	P	P		P	P		P	P
A. Green, Transp. Planner		-	-	P	-		P	-		P	P
A. Cook, Assoc. Transp. Planner		P	P	P	P		P	-		E	-
M. Zeller, Sr. Transp. Planner		-	P	P	P		P	-		E	-
S. Gavin, Community Outreach Coordinator		P	P	-	-		-	-		-	-
H. Myers, Assoc. Transp. Planning Engineer		P	-	P	P		P	P		P	P
M. Montiel, Admin. Assistant		-	-	-	-		-	P		-	-

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

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sam Teel	Mo. Co. Hospitality Assoc.	Rick Medina	City of Seaside
Chris Flescher	Rail Pass. Assoc. of CA	Frank Pierce	Lee & Pierce
Mike Gallant	Monterey-Salinas Transit		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made at the meeting.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Armenta/ Markey/ unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 5, 2013 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

Received 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 5, 2013 includes the approval of a change to the Proposition 116 Rail Bond funding allocation at the August 6, 2013 California Transportation Commission meeting, meetings with Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, and completion of the environmental documents. Ms. Watson reported that questions raised at the August 5 meeting are being researched and some had been answered, including the question of the Capitol Corridor average train seating (350-420 for a 5-car train) and current Capitol Corridor ridership (140,533 passengers in July 2013; 1.4 million passengers year to date). Ms. Watson also noted that staff was preparing to publish the Request for Proposals authorized by the Board at its August 28 meeting in late September or October.

5. CAPITOL CORRIDOR REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

M/S/C Delgado/Armenta/unanimous

Recused: Matarazzo

Recommended the Board:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a reimbursement agreement not to exceed \$45,000 with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority to review designs and assist with planning for the Salinas Rail Extension Project, for two years;
2. Approve the use of \$45,000 in state funds budgeted to this project; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to make administrative changes to the agreement if such changes do not increase the Agency's net cost, subject to approval by Agency counsel.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the Transportation Agency and the Capitol Corridor have a short-term reimbursement in place that expires on September 30, 2013 for review of engineering designs and assistance with planning for the project to extend

Capitol Corridor trains to Monterey County. This longer, more comprehensive, two-year agreement is in conjunction with the previous agreement and is for actual costs incurred for Capitol Corridor staff work related to this project. Ms. Watson noted that Agency Counsel had substantial edits to the draft agreement such that the approval would be delayed from the September Board agenda to the October Board agenda, but that the amount, timeframe, and scope of work would remain the same.

6. COAST DAYLIGHT

Received 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 August 5, 2013 includes ongoing negotiations with Union Pacific, Caltrain and Amtrak; and meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and staff of the intercity passenger rail corridors. Ms. Watson noted that the Agency had committed \$200,000 in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding to this project for the planning and environmental phase, and \$300,000 for the construction phase. Ms. Watson also summarized a recently completed Service Development Plan, noting the estimated annual operations cost for the service at \$12.2 million, the estimated annual ridership of 124,000 riders and the estimated income from ticket sales of \$6.2 million, requiring an annual subsidy of \$6 million.

Committee Member Armenta requested a map showing all proposed rail projects at a future meeting.

7. AMTRAK REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

M/S/C Markey/Armenta/Unanimous

Recommended the Board:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a reimbursement agreement not to exceed \$70,000 with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) to perform a feasibility and implementation study for the Coast Daylight Project;
2. Approve the use of \$70,000 in state funds budgeted to this project; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to make administrative changes to the agreement if such changes do not increase the Agency's net cost, subject to approval by Agency counsel.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that this reimbursement agreement enables the Transportation Agency to reimburse Amtrak to perform a feasibility and implementation study for the Coast Daylight Project. This agreement is for actual costs incurred for Amtrak staff work related to this project. Ms. Watson noted that Agency Counsel had substantial edits to the draft agreement such that the approval would be delayed from the September Board agenda to the October Board agenda, but that the amount, timeframe, and scope of work would remain the same.

8. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE SHORT TERM TRANSIT PLAN PROPOSAL

Discussed proposal to develop a short-term plan for the Monterey Branch Line that includes bus rapid transit service within or near the railroad right-of-way and consider request to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) to allocate federal planning funds.

Ariana Green, Transportation Planner, reported that Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) is interested in providing dedicated bus service using the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way between the Del Monte off-ramp of Highway 1 in Monterey and 8th Street in Marina. A short-range plan would identify potential alternative routes and serve as a basis for future funding opportunities.

Ms. Green noted that any bus project on the right-of-way would not prevent a future light rail transit project per the adopted alternatives analysis for the Monterey Branch Line. She noted that the study is estimated to cost \$64,000 and the costs would be split between the Transportation Agency and AMBAG.

Carl Sedoryk, MST General Manager/CEO, noted that the proposal would set the stage for a future federal funding application via the “Very Small Starts” grant program, which provides up to \$25 million in federal funds for small transit projects costing less than \$50 million. The goal would be to find room for a busway without tearing out the rail tracks and allowing room for both the buses and future light rail in the same corridor. Mr. Sedoryk noted the parallel bus routes had very high ridership, among the highest for the entire MST system.

Committee Member Delgado requested that the study be extended north of 8th Street in Marina in order to access the population center of the city.

Committee Member Matarazzo requested that the study consider other uses contemplated for the corridor, such as the proposed extension of California Avenue in Sand City.

Member of the Public Frank Pierce commented that the study should consider the potential for hazardous materials in the right-of-way. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that the light rail project’s draft environmental documents likely already evaluate that possibility.

Committee Member Delgado requested that staff bring the proposal back to the Committee at a future meeting for further discussion, including the corridor end points and potential effects on the planned light rail project. Mr. Delgado also requested a separate meeting with Mr. Sedoryk on the topic.

Committee Alternate Gowin requested the study include an evaluation of what would be useful for the future light rail compared to what would be only useful for the busway.

9. MONTEREY BRANCH LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENTS

Received report on Monterey Branch Line right-of-way easements.

Hank Myers, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer, reported that Agency staff has been in discussions for various easements along the Agency-owned Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. The discussions involve easements and leases of property for incidental uses that do not negatively impact the planned passenger rail project.

Committee Member Delgado inquired whether the income from easements and leases could fund maintenance and cleanup on the right-of-way. Executive Director Debbie Hale responded that she would discuss the question with the property manager.

Committee Alternate Markey noted that the easement agreement with CalAm for the water pipeline in the right-of-way should require regular pipeline maintenance and replacement and establish a minimum grade for pipe materials.

Committee Alternate Gowin requested that the easement contract have a contingency clause in case CalAm sold the water pipeline or left the area, that the easement ownership would revert to the Transportation Agency and not be transferable.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Sollecito adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.