

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
**RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*FINAL Minutes of September 14, 2015*  
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	SEP 14	OCT 14	NOV 14	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15	APR 15	MAY 15	JUNE 15	AUG 15	SEP 15
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P	P	<b>C</b>	P
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	<b>A</b>	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 (K. Markey)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)	<b>N</b>	E	P(A)	<b>N</b>	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair ( <del>K. Lee</del> , J. Mohammadi)	<b>C</b>	P(A)	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P	<b>C</b>	P	P	<b>C</b>	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	<b>E</b>	E	<b>E</b>	-	<b>E</b>	P(A)	<b>E</b>	P	-	<b>E</b>	-
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	<b>L</b>	E	<b>L</b>	P	<b>L</b>	P	<b>L</b>	E	P	<b>L</b>	-
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair ( <del>R. Russell</del> , J. Serrano)	<b>L</b>	P(A)	<b>L</b>	P	<b>L</b>	E	<b>L</b>	P	P	<b>L</b>	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	P	<b>E</b>	-	<b>E</b>	P	-	<b>E</b>	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (I. Oglesby)	<b>D</b>	P	<b>D</b>	P	<b>D</b>	P	<b>D</b>	P	E	<b>D</b>	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)		E		P		P		P	E		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)		E		-		-		-	P(A)		-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5		-		P		-		-	-		-
C. Sedoryk, MST ( <del>H. Harvath</del> , L. Rheinheimer)		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	-		P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)		-		-		-		-	-		-
<b>STAFF</b>											
D. Hale, Exec. Director		P		P		E		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		E	-		-
M. Zeller, Sr. Transp. Planner		E		P		P		P	E		P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer		E		E		P		-	-		-
Virginia Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner		P		P		P		P	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**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Eric Petersen                      Salinas resident                                      Jerome Landesman                      Salinas resident  
MacGregor Eddy                      *We Could Car Less* Columnist, Salinas Californian

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jerome Landesman, Salinas resident, said that Salinas Amtrak station directional signs need to be replaced. He noted that Amtrak will provide the signs, but the City needs to request them.

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3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Markey/Rubio/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 14, 2015 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received report on American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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4. **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 on June 1, 2015 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, meetings with Amtrak regarding the feasibility study, participation in the California Intercity Passenger Rail corridors phone meetings and attendance of State rail funding and planning workshops.

Ms. Watson reported that the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Review (EIS/EIR) for the coast rail corridor between Salinas and San Luis Obispo is expected to be published in the fall. She noted that TAMC published a Request for Proposals for the federal environmental review of the coast rail corridor between Salinas and San Jose.

Committee Alternate Markey asked why the environmental review was split between the Salinas to San Luis Obispo corridor and Salinas to San Jose corridor. Ms. Watson said that this process had to do with prior work that anticipated federal environmental review in the Salinas to San Jose corridor to be completed separately, as well as the prior completion of CEQA for this segment.

Committee Alternate Markey also asked if there has been any opposition to the EIS/EIR. Ms. Watson noted that King City and San Luis Obispo county residents raised concerns, and that these will be addressed in the final EIS/EIR.

Ms. Watson reported on two workshops on September 1 – one related to the State Rail Plan and the other pertaining to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program guidelines. She noted that the State expects to issue a call for projects in February 2016.

Committee Alternate Markey asked for clarification on the State Rail Plan update. Ms. Watson noted that the Coast Daylight and Capitol Corridor extension projects are in the State Rail Plan, listed on the State's rail maps, and that the State's ridership analysis shows there is a strong latent demand for passenger rail service in the Monterey Bay.

5. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSIONS PROJECT UPDATE**

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

Ms. Watson reported that progress since the last update to the Committee about the Salinas Rail Extension project on June 1, 2015 includes numerous meetings, updated resolutions of support for the project from the City of Salinas and the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST), and a presentation to the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA).

Ms. Watson mentioned that the CCJPA Board of Directors expressed overall support for the Salinas Rail Extension project. One CCJPA Boardmember had questions about zoning around the stations that would support transit-oriented development; another questioned the ridership on MST's Line 55 Monterey-San Jose Express bus; and another requested a train tour to Salinas.

Vice Chair Craig noted that the CCJPA Board demonstrated a commitment to the Salinas Rail Extension project. She recommended a spring train tour.

Committee Member Chavez asked about ridership on MST's Line 55, and noted that it does not operate during commute hours. Committee Alternate Rheinheimer noted that Line 55 service was cut back due to a reduction in federal grant funding and that the new Line 86 provides commute hour service; however, neither service is directly comparable to the planned Rail Extension to Salinas.

MacGregor Eddy, Salinas Californian columnist, asked about multimodal connectivity at the Salinas Amtrak station, and asked if there could be a map showing the bus transit connections. Committee Alternate Rheinheimer mentioned that MST generally keeps brochures from other public transit providers at its stations.

Michael Zeller, Senior Transportation Planner, updated the Committee on the property acquisition phase of the Salinas Rail Extension project. Mr. Zeller mentioned that property appraisal packages are complete, and that property owners can also get their own appraisals as part of the negotiation process.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that staff submitted a federal grant application for the Pajaro/Watsonville multimodal transit station project on June 5. Staff secured support letters from partner agencies around the state, from all four of our State legislators, Congressman Farr and Senator Boxer. She noted that award announcements will be made in the fall. Ms. Murillo also reported that the project did not win a grant from state cap and trade funding program, and staff is seeking feedback from the state on the application in anticipation of applying again in the future.

Committee Member Bodem noted that federal grant applications take a lot of work.

Committee Member Armenta noted that Sacramento County Supervisor/CCJPA Boardmember Phil Serna will be in Monterey on the first week of December and asked staff to try to set up a meeting with him to brief him on the Salinas Rail Extension.

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

None

**7. ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.