

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
FINAL Minutes of November 2, 2015
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

	OCT 14	NOV 14	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15	APR 15	MAY 15	JUNE 15	AUG 15	SEP 15	NOV 15
F. Armenta, Dist. 1 (J. Martinez)	P	C	P	C	P(A)	C	P	P	C	P	P
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (K. Markey)	P(A)	N	P(A)	N	P(A)	N	E	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)
D. Potter, Dist. 5, Chair (K. Lee , J. Mohammadi)	P(A)	C	P	C	P	C	P	P	C	P(A)	P
B. Delgado, Marina (F. O'Connell)	E	E	-	E	P(A)	E	P	-	E	-	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	E	L	P	L	P	L	E	P	L	-	P
K. Craig, Salinas, Vice Chair (R. Russell , J. Serrano)	P(A)	L	P	L	E	L	P	P	L	P	P(A)
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	E	P	E	-	E	P	-	E	P	P
R. Rubio, Seaside (I. Oglesby)	P	D	P	D	P	D	P	E	D	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	E		P		P		P	E		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	E		-		-		-	P(A)		-	-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-		P		-		-	-		-	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath , L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	-		P(A)	P(A)
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-		-		-		-	-		-	-
STAFF											
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P		P		E		P	E		P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P		-		P		P	P		P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P		P	P		P	P
A. Green, Transp. Planner	P		-		P		E	-		-	-
M. Zeller, Sr. Transp. Planner	E		P		P		P	E		P	E
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	E		E		P		-	-		-	P
V. Murillo, Asst. Transp. Planner	P		P		P		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 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Theresa Wright TAMC Staff Jerome Landesman Salinas resident
MacGregor Eddy *We Could Car Less* Columnist, Salinas Californian

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jerome Landesman, Salinas resident, requested information on the Salinas Rail Extension project timeline.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Rubio/Armenta /unanimous

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

3.2 Approved 2016 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

3.3 Received the call for nominations for the fourteenth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

3.4 Received update on Monterey Branch Line right of way easements.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **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 September 14, 2015 includes a meeting with Caltrans, regarding next steps on the Market Street improvements by the Salinas train station, and completion of appraisals for the right-of-way phase. Ms. Watson noted that Caltrans has requested a project report to move forward with the design of the improvements to Market and Lincoln, and has assigned a project manager.

Ms. Watson responded to Mr. Landesman's question about the project timeline, and reported that the start of service date is 2020. However, this start date is dependent upon negotiations between Union Pacific, the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority and the California State Transportation Agency. Ms. Watson also mentioned that with the enactment of Senate Bill 9 (Beall), the State can make access payments to host railroads in lieu of capital investments, to facilitate the implementation of intercity and commuter rail service improvements and extensions. Ms. Watson noted that this new legislation may facilitate negotiations and help the project come to fruition.

Committee Alternate Lisa Rheinheimer asked how many properties are included in the right-of-way phase of the project. Ms. Watson said that there are nine properties in the station area.

5. **PAJARO/WATSONVILLE MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station project.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station is the second phase of the Rail Extension to Monterey County project. She noted that Agency staff submitted one State and one Federal grant funding application.

She noted that staff received feedback on the State grant application, and reported that a lack of agreements between the Agency, Union Pacific and the Capitol Corridor was the State grant application's major obstacle. Ms. Murillo also noted that staff will be monitoring the State's negotiations with host railroads.

Chair Potter asked if staff would be submitting another application for State grant funding. Ms. Murillo said staff will be submitting another application, pending a support letter from the host railroad. Chair Potter suggested a future grant application partnership with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Chair Potter also suggested that staff reach out to Nossaman for assistance with securing a letter of support from Union Pacific.

Ms. Murillo reported that the project was not awarded Federal funding. Staff will be scheduling a debrief call with U.S. Department of Transportation staff to obtain feedback on the application.

6. **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 September 14, 2015 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and with the Federal Railroad Administration regarding the environmental reviews. She mentioned that the next Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting would be held in Monterey on November 13.

Ms. Watson noted that the final environmental document on the Salinas-San Luis Obispo corridor was complete and will be approved at the December 16, 2015 San Luis Obispo Council of Governments Board meeting. She also noted that the new consultant team for the Salinas-San Jose corridor would hold a kick-off meeting on November 12.

Committee Member Smith asked about the schedule for the Coast Starlight, and the project delivery schedule for the Coast Daylight. Chair Potter noted that federal legislation to engage Union Pacific as a project partner would be beneficial delivery of the Coast Daylight project. Ms. Watson noted that the Coast Starlight, which currently operates between Los Angeles and Seattle, stops in Salinas on its way to Los Angeles in the morning and on its way to Seattle in the afternoon. Chair Potter commented that the Coast Starlight's on time performance has improved.

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

None.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.