

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FINAL Minutes of September 11, 2017

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	JUNE 16	AUG 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY 17	JUN 17	SEPT 17
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez)	E	-	E	P(A)	P(A)	P	C	P(A)	E	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)	P(A)	E	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P	P	P	P(A)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	P	P	-	P(A)	P	P	E	P	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (R. Deal)	P(A)	E	E	-	P	E	L	P	E	P
K. Craig, Salinas, Chair (J. Gunter)	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	E	L	P	P	P
T. Bodem, Sand City (L. Gomez)	P	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	E
R. Rubio, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P(A)	P	P	P	P	P	D	P	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	E	P	P	E	P	P		-	P	P
M. LeBarre, King City (C. Victoria)	-	-	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson)	P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	E	-
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-	-	P	E	-	-		-	-	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (H. Harvath, L. Rheinheimer)	P(A)	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	E
B. Sabo, Airport (R. Searle)	-	-	P	-	-	-		-	-	-
STAFF										
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P	E	P	E	P		E	P	P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
H. Myers, Sr. Transp. Engineer	P	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	
V. Murillo, Transp. Planner	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	E
A. Green, Associate Trans. Planner	-	-	-	-	-	P		-	-	
T. Wright Community Outreach Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	P		P	-	E

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

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

OTHERS PRESENT

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Delgado/Chavez/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the August 7, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **SALINAS RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received a presentation on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that activities of the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on August 7 include the completion of competitive bidding processes for hazardous materials and construction management firms. The contract for hazardous materials with Geocon will be going before the Board in September, and the contract for construction management with MNS Engineers will be considered by the Board in October. In addition, meetings were held of the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center Steering Committee and progress was made in the acquisition of properties in Salinas. She also noted that RPC Vice Chair Delgado and Committee Member LeBarre testified at a hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Rail on August 30 to support the Salinas Rail Extension and Coast Rail projects. Related meetings were held with legislators and state staff.

Committee member LeBarre noted that he was encouraged by the meetings with the State legislators and the questions that they raised during the hearing. He also noted that the State is taking the lead in negotiating “access fees” with Union Pacific, which can help our planned service and smaller communities.

Committee Vice Chair Delgado noted that the emerging corridor panel got the most feedback and questions of any panel, partly due to the fortuitous attendance of Assembly Member Caballero and Senator Beall.

Committee member Rubio stated the MNS Engineers currently has a lot of work in Monterey County and asked staff to confirm their ability to balance their workload to complete this project. Staff responded that MNS Engineers was asked this question during the interview process and stated that they have capacity for the project.

Committee member Rubio asked a follow-up question if the hazardous materials contract is separate from demolition. Staff responded that the hazardous materials firm will do oversight during abatement and demolition, which will be conducted by a separate firm.

Committee member Smith asked if staff has the amount of square footage that will be demolished. Staff responded that it will be included in the Board report.

Committee alternate Stratton asked how demolition will impact traffic on Market Street. Staff responded that this issue will need to be coordinated with the construction management firm to minimize impacts.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that property acquisition for the Salinas Rail Extension project continues to move forward. He noted that the Agency has received possession of all of the properties necessary for the extension of Lincoln Avenue and that efforts to relocate utilities are underway. He also noted that relocation efforts with the remaining tenants is also on-going.

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas, asked how long is the Agency required to provide relocation benefits to residential tenants. Staff responded that the Agency is required to provide residential relocation benefits for 42 months that covers the difference between the current rent and new rent of a relocated tenant.

5. **COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on August 7 includes the status on SB 477 (Cannella), permitting the extension of rail services. She noted that the bill is was not passed off suspense with the Assembly Appropriations Committee on September 1.

Ms. Watson reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) met on August 10 in San Rafael to discuss legislative efforts, new state funding for rail, the state rail plan (expected to be published in September for a 60-day review period), and the request for the Coast Starlight to stop in King City. The group toured the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) line on August 11. She presented a slideshow of the SMART line tour. Executive Director Debbie Hale noted the SMART is a good model for the Monterey Branch Line project.

Committee member Rubio asked about the Department of Finance's objections on SB 477. Staff responded that the letter will be added to the Board correspondence for reference, along with the TAMC letter to the Assembly Appropriations Chair refuting the DOF allegations.

Committee member Smith asked if the Agency can try for the bill again next year. Staff responded that there are several options that are being pursued to move the legislation forward.

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

None.

7. **ADJOURN**

Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.