

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of August 5, 2019

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUNE 19	JUL 19	AUG 19
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	C	P	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	A	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	A	P(A)	E	O	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	P(A)	N	P(A)		P(A)	N	E	N	P(A)	E		E
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	E	C	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	C	P	E	M	P(A) TC
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	-	L	P	E	P	L	P	L	P	P	E	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	-	L	E	T	P	L	P	L	P	P(A)	T	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	E	P	I	P	E	P	E	-	-	I	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P	D	-	N	-	D	-	D	-	-	N	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P		P(A)	G	-		P		P	P	G	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	-		P		-		P		-	P		-
D. Potter, At Large Member							-		P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	-		-		P(A)		-		P(A)	P(A)		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)		P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	E		P		P		E		E	E		P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	E		P		P		P		P	P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P		P		P	P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	E		P		P		P		P	P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator	P		P		P		P		E	E		-
M. Montiel	P		P		P		P		P	P		P

Admin Assistant												
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer			P		P		E		P	P		E

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jennifer Russell	MNS Engineers	Brad Tarp	Salinas Resident
Diane Tarp	Salinas Resident	Todd Clark	Museum of Handcar Technology LLC
Cheryl Ku	Monterey County	Mason Clark	Museum of Handcar Technology LLC

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Oglesby/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the June 3, 2019 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Monterey Bay Area Network Integration Study.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include: progress on the construction of the City of Salinas’ storm drain project, right-of way activities related to package 2 and continued operations discussions with Caltrain. She noted that utility relocation work is now underway at the Salinas train station in advance of initiation of construction of the TAMC project. MPE has nearly completed the City of Salinas’ Storm Drain work to connect the new onsite 48” storm drain to the existing manhole on West Market Street. She noted that the City Sanitary Sewer relocation project was modified per conflicts with CalWater and existing and planned fire hydrant service lines. PG&E cancelled the joint trench in Lincoln Avenue, due to the City of Salinas’ inability to agree to pay \$93,000, which has implications for keeping the gas lines in place in the parking lot. She noted that in prior documentation, the City of Salinas has agreed to pay for delays and redesign efforts if utility relocation schedules were to change.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that six properties’ appraisals were reviewed and finalized. He noted that the draft offer packages are being finalized. He also noted that the Geocon will do additional soils testing for arsenic on one property to refine the estimate of contamination.

Brad Tarp, resident, stated that there should be no arsenic on his property, due to the water pollution clean-up that was certified by the State Water Control Board. He noted that the drainage ditch might be responsible for any arsenic that may have been found by Geocon.

Ms. Watson reported that staff continues to participate in meetings for Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency study, looking at the impacts of climate change and sea level rise to transportation corridors through the Elkhorn Slough. The steering committee met on July 18 and the group is holding a public outreach meeting in Moss Landing on August 29. Caltrain continues developing their business plan with a 2040 time horizon, pursuing a “moderate” growth scenario with 8 trains per hour per direction between San Jose and San Francisco.

5. **COAST CORRIDOR RAIL 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 on recent progress on the coast route. She noted that the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is working with Caltrans on the funding agreements for the State Rail Assistance and Strategic Partnership grant funding they received for a Service Implementation Plan and a study of Diesel Multiple Unit trains for the corridor. She noted that the City of King is also working with SLOCOG on the state rail funding agreement for planning work related to a station in King City.

Ms. Watson noted that the City of King is not applying for Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding this round and that Agency staff will coordinate comments on draft guidelines for the next funding cycle. Ms. Watson noted that the next round of applications are due January 9, 2020 and Caltrans is expected to release the draft guidelines on August 19.

6. **MONTEREY BRANCH LINE RECREATIONAL USE PROPOSAL**

The Committee received information and provided direction to staff as to the proposed interim use of the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way for a recreational enterprise.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff has received multiple proposals over the years to use the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way for recreational purposes. In July 2019, Transportation Agency staff received an unsolicited proposal from the Museum of Handcar Technology LLC to use three miles of the Monterey Branch Line rail corridor for a one-month demo of tourist handcar operations in the summer of 2020.

Ms. Watson noted that while this is not the first proposal TAMC has received for a recreational use of the Branch Line tracks, it is the most developed. Since the Museum of Handcar Technology does not propose a unique service, if the Board directs staff to proceed along this path, staff would need to prepare, publish and administer a Request for Proposals. She stated that staff believes that while this is an interesting proposal, running a recreational service on the Monterey Branch Line does not support the Agency’s core transportation

goals. She noted that there would be a cost in terms of staff time to conduct a request for proposals, select an operator and oversee the operations contract and there would be a risk of liability in the event of an accident. If extended beyond the trial period, the project could generate opposition to the planned Measure X Highway 1 Rapid Bus Corridor project (slated for construction within five years) or the long-term plans for light rail service on the Monterey Branch Line.

Mason Clark, Museum of Handcar Technology LLC, noted that the Monterey Branch Line has great potential for creating a successful recreational enterprise. The line has pleasant scenery, lacks highway or road crossings that could create hazards, and the area has mild weather that could allow for year-round operations. Mr. Clark noted that they are proposing to operate a 30-day demonstration to allow the community to decide if the recreational enterprise is a good match for the community. If they were to have favorable reception, they envision establishing a longer route and a handcar museum on TAMC property.

Hunter Harvath, Monterey-Salinas Transit, expressed safety, liability, and public perception concerns about having an MST commuter bus in the same corridor in a few years.

Committee member Potter expressed interest in getting more information on the handcar proposal and other hypothetical recreational uses of the branch line.

Vice Chair Delgado asked whether the proposers could pay for TAMC staff time that may be required to assist with the proposal development.

Committee member Oglesby asked if MST should be the lead on this discussion.

Committee member Smith suggested that the proposal should come by way of the underlying jurisdiction (in this case, the Cities of Marina and Seaside), as is done for encroachment permits for other uses of the property.

Chair LeBarre asked staff to explore whether staff time reimbursement would be possible; to coordinate with MST on an agreement to ensure any recreational efforts would not conflict with the future busway; and to stipulate that any mitigation needed for safety or liability concerns would be the responsibility of the recreational business.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson announced that the September 9, 2019 meeting will be cancelled and noted that the next meeting will be on October 7, 2019.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.