

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Final Minutes of May 4, 2020
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

	JUNE 19	JUL 19	AUG 19	SEP 19	OCT 19	NOV 19	DEC 19	JAN 20	FEB 20	MAR 20	APR 20	MAY 20
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	N	-	P(A)	P(A)	C	-
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	E	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	-	A	P(A)
J. Parker, Dist. 4 (W. Askew)	E		E	N	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	N	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (Y. Anderson)	E	M	P(A) TC	C	-	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	E	C	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P
B. Delgado, Marina, Vice Chair (F. O'Connell)	P	E	P	L	P	-	E	P	P	P	L	P
E. Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	P(A)	T	P	L	-	-	T	P	P	P	L	P
S. Davis, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	-	I	P	E	P	P	I	P	P	P	E	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	-	N	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	G	P		-	P	G	P	-	P		P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P		-		P	P		-	P	-		P
D. Potter, At Large Member	P		P		E	E		P	P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	P(A)		P(A)		E	P(A)		P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	-		-		-	-		-	-	-		P
C. Sedoryk, MST (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	P	E		P
T. Muck, Deputy Exec. Director	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		P
M. Zeller, Principal Transp. Planner	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		P
Theresa Wright, Outreach Coordinator	E		-		E	P		-	-	P		P
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P		P		P	P		P	P	P		P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		E		P	E		P	E	P		E
Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner					P	P			P	P		P

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

Ryan Park	AECOM	Melissa Gjerde	AECOM
Lisa Brinton	City of Salinas	Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Karla Corres	Public	Suzi Merriam	Public
Virginia Wright	Public	Gina Cole	Public
Joseph Haenlein	Public	Mark Mesti-Miller	Public
Catherine Crockett	Public	Dennis Lowery	

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Lowery spoke regarding a privately funded passenger train using the Monterey Branch Line. His emailed comment was forwarded to Committee members.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Davis/ Smith/unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the March 2, 2020 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE

The Committee received an update and provided feedback on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park and Melissa Gjerde, AECOM, who presented on the Monterey Bay Area Network Integration Study. Ryan Park reported that they completed the Existing and Future Conditions memo and are now working on the Future Network Vision memo and the Governance and Operations models memo. He noted that the study focuses on determining the optimal options for rail connectivity and operations, equipment needs, governance, and community benefits for service between Monterey County and Santa Clara County, Monterey and Santa Cruz, and the Coast Rail Corridor. He reviewed the outline of the forthcoming Governance and Operations Models memo, which will evaluate options for governance and operations of future multi-county rail service on the Central Coast.

Committee Member Delgado suggested the study consider including the Seattle "Sounder" as a comparable transit district.

Committee Member Smith noted that every Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is different, so the team should evaluate their comparability to the Monterey Bay Area before picking which ones to study.

Chair LeBarre asked the team to check if the San Diego COASTER/SPRINTER system evolved out of an existing transit district or was created only for rail service. He suggested one of each should be included in the study.

Committee Member Davis requested that the study consider the implications of creating a brand-new JPA or Transit District, such as retirement liability for member agencies.

Committee Alternate Stratton asked whether the team would explore evolving Monterey-Salinas Transit into a rail operator for the region. Ms. Watson noted that those discussions have not yet begun.

Melissa Gjerde reported on a draft public survey. She went over the draft 19 questions with the Committee and received feedback on the question framing and wording.

Committee Member Davis asked if it will be available in Spanish. Ms. Gjerde noted that yes, they plan to translate once the final survey is ready. Mr. Davis also noted not to make the survey extensive.

Committee Member Delgado expressed excitement on the progress shown in this project and asked about timing for the survey, requesting that the framing reflect the current pandemic shelter-in-place situation. Ms. Gjerde noted a preliminary note would be added about the timing for the project and that the questions relate to pre-pandemic travel trends.

5. 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 the Monterey County Rail Extension Project extends passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. In March and April 2020, the construction team continued to make progress constructing the Lincoln Avenue Extension and associated parking improvements at the Salinas train station. Ms. Watson reported that TAMC staff held multiple meetings related to operations planning and anticipate bringing a Caltrain-authored feasibility study to a future Committee meeting.

6. COVID-19 IMPACTS ON RAIL PROJECTS

The Committee discussed COVID-19 impacts on rail projects.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that COVID-19-related construction delays and delays caused by remote work may have financial implications to the rail program. Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) declared a fiscal emergency to enable implementation of emergency service reductions and other strategies to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including seeking state or federal assistance. Ms. Watson noted that Todd Clark from the Museum of Handcar Technology contacted TAMC to suspend the lease agreement for a demonstration handcar project on the Monterey Branch Line this summer, due to the impacts of sheltering in place requirements and the anticipated continuing limitations on gathering and travel. As the lease agreement expires on August 31, 2020,

TAMC will reach out to Mr. Clark to determine next steps in advance of that expiration date and will update the Committee in August.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None this month.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.