



AGENDA TAMC RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Monday
November 6, 2017

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
TAMC Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas**

3:00 PM

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum for the voting TAMC Rail Policy Committee members consists of a minimum of 6 of the following voting members: Adams, Alejo, Bodem, Chavez, Craig, Delgado, LeBarre, Parker, Phillips, Rubio, and Smith.

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your two alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA.

Any member of the public may address the Rail Policy Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Rail Policy Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the CONSENT AGENDA for discussion and action.

3.1. APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of September 11, 2017.

- Zeller

The draft minutes of the September 11, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. APPROVE 2018 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

- Watson

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2018 follows the existing pattern of meetings on the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. except July and December, when all committee meetings are cancelled due to holidays; January, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the New Year's holiday, and September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.

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

- Wright

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages Committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 8, 2017. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 2018 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. PROVIDE COMMENTS on the 2018 California State Rail Plan.

- Watson

The 2018 California State Rail Plan was published on October 11, 2017 for a 60-day public review period. Comments are due December 11, 2017. Staff will present an overview on sections of the 2018 California State Rail Plan relevant to Monterey County.

5. **RECEIVE** and **COMMENT** on draft 2018 Legislative Program.

- Watson

The purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. The program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the agency.

6. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and **RECOMMEND** Board adoption of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Memorandum of Understanding.

- Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on September 11, 2017 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Technical and Policy Committees.

7. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

- Watson/Zeller

Activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on September 11, 2017 include meetings related to operations scenarios and progress in the acquisition of properties in Salinas.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Rail Policy Committee members on matters that they wish to put on future Committee agendas.

9. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:

Monday, January 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902
Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
TEL: 831-775-0903
FAX: 831-775-0897**

The Committee Agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1. RECEIVE** July and September 2017 CCJPA Monthly Reports.
- C 2. RECEIVE** correspondence attached online.
- C 3. RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Michael Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: Rail Policy Committee minutes of September 11, 2017

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of September 11, 2017.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the September 11, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no financial impact.

DISCUSSION:

The draft minutes of the September 11, 2017 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▢ Rail Policy Committee draft minutes of September 11, 2017

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT 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.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **2018 Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE 2018 schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings.

SUMMARY:

The proposed schedule of Rail Policy Committee meetings for 2018 follows the existing pattern of meetings (the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. except July and December, when all committee meetings are cancelled due to holidays; January, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the New Year’s holiday and September, when the meeting is on the second Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Please mark your calendars for the 2018 meeting schedule as follows (*second Monday):

- January 8*
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- August 6
- September 10*
- October 1
- November 5

Per tradition, the RPC does not meet in July due to summer holidays or in December due to winter holidays. The January meeting would normally fall on January 1; since this date is the New Year’s

holiday, staff recommends moving the meeting to January 8. Similarly, the September meeting will be on September 10, since the first Monday is Labor Day. Meeting time and location will remain the same: 3:00 p.m. in the TAMC conference room.



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **Transportation Excellence Awards**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

SUMMARY:

Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County by awarding Transportation Excellence Awards. Staff encourages Committee members to submit nominations, which are due by December 8, 2017. The awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 2018 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County would like to show its appreciation to the local community for its outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County. The program has award categories for individuals, businesses/groups, programs or projects. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving

alone.

Committee members are encouraged to distribute nomination forms and nominate projects, groups or individuals to be recognized for their contributions to transportation in Monterey County.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Transportation Excellence Award Nomination Form

Transportation Excellence Awards



Awards Program Nomination form (Please fill out form completely)

1. Name of Nominee

Give name and address of individual (provide title), firm, group, or organization.

Nominee: _____

Category: (circle one) **Individual** **Business/Group** **Program** **Project**

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

If Nominee is a firm, group or organization, provide contact name: _____

Title: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

2. Description:

Describe the individual, business, group, program or project that is being nominated. Include any specific information that may apply, such as the number of people who worked on the project, number of hours spent on the project, number of people served or affected, cost to those served, and annual cost of operation. Indicate whether the nominee is a volunteer or paid. Enclose any photographs or other materials that will contribute additional information to the nomination. Use extra pages as needed.

3. Date or duration of program:

When did this program take place? When was it completed? If ongoing, when did it start?

4. Significance/Result:

State how this person, group or project has contributed to improving transportation in Monterey County in current calendar year. Describe the impact on those served and value created by this activity, as well as any savings provided to users, taxpayers or providers by the nominee. Use extra pages as needed.

5. Person Submitting Nomination:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Please return by **noon, December 8, 2017** via fax: 831-775-0897; email: Theresa@tamcmonterey.org;
or mail to: Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Attn: Theresa Wright
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA, 93901

For additional information, please call 831-775-4411. This form is also available on TAMC's website
at: <http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/excelaward/index.html>



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **2018 California State Rail Plan**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

PROVIDE COMMENTS on the 2018 California State Rail Plan.

SUMMARY:

The 2018 California State Rail Plan was published on October 11, 2017 for a 60-day public review period. Comments are due December 11, 2017. Staff will present an overview on sections of the 2018 California State Rail Plan relevant to Monterey County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Inclusion of Agency rail projects in the near term scenarios in the rail plan will strengthen applications for grant funding for those projects.

DISCUSSION:

The plan includes separate sections for passenger and freight rail, including a short-term four year program of projects, a 10-year interim program, and a long-term “vision” with a 2040 horizon year. The passenger component of the plan is based on a proposed “Integrated Network” to provide “Core Services” with coordinated schedules and efficient transfers providing access to and supporting convenient intercity rail travel.

This ambitious plan is intended to establish a long term framework to guide service planning and investment decisions that supports, or does not preclude, development of the integrated network. The passenger rail planning effort includes a market assessment, a rail infrastructure review (a.k.a. capacity analysis), and a refinement of network service scenarios. Outside the scope of the plan but a necessary next step is an analysis of organizational structures required to support the plan’s implementation.

The plan reflects the goal of auto-competitive alternatives for statewide travel and a connection to the

statewide High-Speed Rail network at Gilroy. The plan includes intercity bus options as well as rail, and much of the service proposed for the Central Coast region is envisioned to be bus in the near term, while planning for increased rail service in the longer term.

The 2022 scenario includes the Salinas Rail Extension project, with two round trips to San Jose, including new stations at Pajaro/Watsonville and Castroville and early investments in Coast Route stations in Soledad and King City.

The 2027 scenario calls for bi-hourly service connecting Salinas to Gilroy, and bi-hourly integrated rail/bus service between Salinas and San Luis Obispo.

The 2040 vision anticipates a regional rail network on the Central Coast with connections between Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Salinas to Gilroy, with hourly service, and hubs at Pajaro/Watsonville to Santa Cruz and at Castroville to Monterey.

The full plan is online as **web attachment 1**. Caltrans also prepared an Executive Summary (**web attachment 2**) and flyer (**web attachment 3**).

An online interactive mapping tool (**web attachment 4**) provides an interface with the existing rail network and the 2040 Vision, allowing users to explore what California's rail network looks like today and the vision for what it will look like in the future.

Staff will present the plan at the meeting and gather input for a comment letter from the Agency, due December 11.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [2018 California State Rail Plan](#)
2. [2018 California State Rail Plan Executive Summary](#)
3. [Factsheet](#)
4. [Interactive Map](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **2018 Legislative Program**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE and **COMMENT** on draft 2018 Legislative Program.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. The program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the agency.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The recommended action has no direct financial impact.

DISCUSSION:

The 2017 TAMC Legislative Program focused on maintaining and augmenting transportation funding. The 2018 legislative program continues this focus on transportation funding. Attached are the draft 2018 legislative program (**attachment 1**) and showing changes as compared to the adopted 2017 program (**attachment 2**).

The Executive Committee discussed this draft program on October 4 and on October 25, the Board received the draft 2018 Legislative Program and approved releasing the program to Committees for comment. Following the Committees' review of the draft program in November, the final program will come back to the Executive Committee and Board in January for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▢ Draft 2018 Legislative Program

□ Draft 2018 Legislative Program, showing changes



DRAFT 2018 Legislative Program: State Issues

- 1S. Preserve funding for transportation projects, support the constitutional protection of all transportation funding resources, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S. Encourage the state to increase investments in passenger rail and bus transit projects and seek funding for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Support legislation to transfer funding derived from the sale of excess rights-of-way purchased for the Prunedale Bypass project to priority projects in the region.
- 4S. Support legislation to expand the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority to Salinas, and to expand the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) to San Francisco.
- 5S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development, complete streets, alternative commutes, and active transportation projects.
- 6S. Work with partner agencies to reach agreement on proposals for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform, while retaining environmental protections.
- 7S. Support efforts to reauthorize Public Private Partnership authority, public tolling authority, and design-build authority, expand mode eligibility, and allow for regional control of such projects.
- 8S. Support efforts to develop alternative funding sources to offset the reduction in gas tax revenues and ensure that any pay-by-the-mile funding is equitably assessed and distributed.
- 9S. Support redefinition of “disadvantaged communities” in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (i.e., “cap and trade”) grant program guidelines to better reflect economic and rural area considerations, and seek funding from the program for regional priority projects.
- 10S. Support measures to allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow Caltrans to adopt appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to protect the Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander from potential impacts of the Highway 156 project.
- 11S. Support funding proposals to enable cities and counties to implement storm water runoff requirements for transportation projects.
- 12S. Support legislation that promotes transparency and access to information on rail transport of hazardous materials.
- 13S. Support efforts to remove the Transportation Development Act’s Unmet Transit Needs hearing requirement if 100% of the TDA funds are already allocated to transit.
- 14S. Support member agencies’ requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



DRAFT 2018 Legislative Program: Federal Issues

- 1F. Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
 1. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
 2. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee and public private partnerships.
 3. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
 4. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding.
- 2F. Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), without restrictions, and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F. Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 4F. Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 5F. Support efforts to change the update timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan from the current four years to eight years.
- 6F. Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.

**FINAL DRAFT 20187 Legislative Program: State Issues**

- 1S. ~~Increase and p~~Preserve funding for transportation projects, support the constitutional protection of all transportation funding resources, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S. Encourage the state to increase investments in passenger rail and bus transit projects and seek funding for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Support legislation to transfer funding derived from the sale of excess rights-of-way purchased for the Prunedale Bypass project to priority projects in the region.
- 4S. Support legislation to expand the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority to Salinas, and to expand the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) to San Francisco.
- 5S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development, complete streets, alternative commutes, and active transportation projects.
- 6S. Work with partner agencies to reach agreement on proposals for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform, while retaining environmental protections.
- 7S. Support efforts to ~~extend and expand~~reauthorize Public Private Partnership authority, public tolling authority, and design-build authority, expand mode eligibility, and allow for regional control of such projects.
- 8S. Support efforts to develop alternative funding sources to offset the reduction in gas tax revenues and ensure that any pay-by-the-mile funding is equitably assessed and distributed.
- 9S. Support redefinition of “disadvantaged communities” in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (i.e., “cap and trade”) grant program guidelines to better reflect economic and rural area considerations, and seek funding from the program for regional priority projects.
- 10S. Support measures to allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow Caltrans to adopt appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to protect the Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander from potential impacts of the Highway 156 project.
- 11S. Support funding proposals to enable cities and counties to implement storm water runoff requirements for transportation projects.
- 12S. Support legislation that promotes transparency and access to information on rail transport of hazardous materials.
- 13S. Support efforts to remove the Transportation Development Act’s Unmet Transit Needs hearing requirement if 100% of the TDA funds are already allocated to transit.

~~14S. Support continued advance, lump-sum payments of state funds.~~

~~15S.~~14S. Support member agencies' requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



FINAL DRAFT 20178 Legislative Program: Federal Issues

- 1F. Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
 1. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
 2. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee and public private partnerships.
 - ~~2.3.~~ Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
 - ~~3.4.~~ Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding.
- 2F. Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), without restrictions, and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F. Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 4F. Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 5F. Support efforts to change the update timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan from the current four years to eight years.
- 6F. Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **Coast Corridor Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and **RECOMMEND** Board adoption of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Memorandum of Understanding.

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee on September 11, 2017 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Technical and Policy Committees.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The project costs are still under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

Coast Rail Coordinating Council

The CRCC Technical Committee met on September 14 and the Policy Committee met in San Luis Obispo on October 13. Discussion topics included next steps on SB 477 (Cannella), the bill to enable rail corridors to extend; new funding available for rail projects; the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and the State Rail Plan (see other item on this Committee's agenda). Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17 as a phone call, and the next Policy Committee is planned for January 19, 2018 in Santa Barbara or Ventura.

Memorandum of Understanding

Attachment 1 is the draft CRCC MOU for consideration by this Committee. This MOU is a step

toward formalizing the CRCC to better coordinate on the planning and funding of expanded passenger rail services along the Coast. Staff asks for comments from this Committee and a recommendation to the Board to adopt the MOU, pending any further comments from Agency counsel.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft CRCC MOU



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP KNOWN AS THE COAST RAIL COORDINATING
COUNCIL (CRCC) TO IMPROVE THE RAIL CORRIDOR BETWEEN LOS ANGELES
AND THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ALONG THE CENTRAL COAST**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), collectively referred to herein as "AGENCIES".

R E C I T A L S

WHEREAS, each of the AGENCIES is either a regional transportation district or a public corporation and has the authority to enter into Joint Powers Agreements pursuant to Government Code Section 6500;

WHEREAS, the AGENCIES wish to build a partnership to raise awareness of the Pacific Coast Rail corridor as a major passenger and freight rail asset to the state and nation, encourage investment in the corridor, and otherwise facilitate the improvement of the Pacific Coast Rail corridor from Los Angeles/San Diego to the San Francisco Bay Area;

WHEREAS, the Pacific Coast Rail Corridor functions as an essential north/south corridor connecting the Central Coast and the greater Los Angeles and San Diego Metropolitan Areas to the south, and the greater San Jose and San Francisco Metropolitan Areas to the north, serving as: a critical goods movement corridor; the primary alternative north/south route when Interstate 5 is periodically closed due to storms due to accidents or when the rail line over the Tehachapi Mountains is closed; and an emergency escape route upon any natural or manmade accident or disaster occurring along the coast including wildfire, earthquake, tsunami, or critical incident at Diablo Nuclear Power Plant;

WHEREAS, California Assembly’s “House Resolution No. 39” in 1992 requested the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) comprising the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor work with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare a rail corridor upgrade study for the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor to enhance the speed and reliability of the rail system;

WHEREAS, the Coast Rail Corridor is designated as an eligible route for State-supported rail services, although none exist between San Luis Obispo and San Jose; and

WHEREAS, several agencies are considered ASSOCIATED AGENCIES, welcome to attend and fully participate except in voting matters, until they opt to join via execution of an amendment to this MOU; including: Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA METRO), Caltrans, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN), Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), Caltrain Peninsula Joint Powers Board (JPB), Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and San Benito COG;

NOW, THEREFORE, the AGENCIES hereby set forth their mutual understanding and actions required for the agreed upon scope of work:

I. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Under this MOU, the AGENCIES agree to work together to:

- (1) Raise the awareness of the importance of the corridor as an important north-south link, supporting mobility at statewide and national levels;
- (2) Cooperate in developing and distributing information about the corridor including but not limited to improvement needs, funding options and strategies, economic impacts and benefits;
- (3) Seek funding for improvements along the corridor;
- (4) Coordinate with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to develop projects to support the corridor;
- (5) Seek support from other public and private partners to raise awareness about the importance of the corridor and encourage investments in corridor improvements; and
- (6) Highlight the importance of the rail corridor on the Central Coast with the California Transportation Commission and state legislative and congressional representatives.

B. The name for the work under this mutual understanding will be known as the “Coast Rail Coordinating Council” or “CRCC”.

C. The CCRC shall initially consist of two standing committees: a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee. Other committees and subcommittees may be created as the CCRC deems appropriate. The

Policy Committee shall select a “Facilitating Agency” to facilitate the work of the CCRC, as set forth below.

II. FACILITATING AGENCY

- A. The AGENCY selected to facilitate meetings, prepare agendas, and set the calendar shall be agendized and agreed upon by mutual consent at least every 3 years.

III. AGENCY REPRESENTATION & LEADERSHIP

- A. Each AGENCY may appoint one (1) Technical Committee member and one (1) Policy Committee member and an alternate for each, if they chose. The members may be from the existing AGENCIES’ membership or prior AGENCY membership.
- B. The AGENCY selected as the Facilitating AGENCY shall chair Technical Committee meetings, and the Chair & Vice Chair of the Policy Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year.

IV. MEETINGS & SCHEDULE

- A. The Technical Committee will conduct meetings monthly, and the Policy Committee will endeavor meet at least quarterly.
- B. The meeting schedule will be maintained by the Facilitating Agency by setting meetings one year in advance.

V. AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS

- A. Each AGENCY agrees to consider an annual financial contribution to offset CRCC agency costs (i.e., meeting rooms, communication costs, support materials, and other incidental expenses).

VI. EFFECTIVENESS AND AMENDMENT

- A. This MOU may be executed in counterparts, and becomes effective when fully executed by all parties.
- B. The terms and conditions of this MOU remain in effect until the goals of the partnership have been achieved or until one of the parties notifies the others that it wishes to withdraw from the partnership.
- C. This MOU can be modified or amended by mutual written consent of all parties.
- D. This MOU does not replace or modify any other preexisting MOU between any or all parties. Likewise, future MOUs may be entered into between the parties notwithstanding this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as set forth below:

Ronald L. DeCarli, Executive Director DATE
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

Margi Kim, Executive Director DATE
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

George Dondero, Executive Director DATE
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Debbie Hale, Executive Director DATE
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Darren Kettle, Executive Director DATE
VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **Salinas Rail Extension project update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Extension project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Extension project since the last update on September 11, 2017 include meetings related to operations scenarios and progress in the acquisition of properties in Salinas.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Salinas Rail Extension Kick-Start project (a phased implementation of the Salinas station and improvements in Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose - Tamien) is estimated at a total of \$70-80 million, including funds already expended on planning, environmental, and right-of-way to date. The Kick-Start project is proceeding with design and right-of-way acquisition under the adopted state environmental clearance. The funding plan does not include the acquisition of equipment to support the service, which is expected to be a Caltrans-funded effort to acquire two new trainsets and spare cars.

Staff is anticipating applying for Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant funding, a program funded with cap and trade greenhouse gas emissions program dollars as well as a new infusion of funds via Senate Bill (SB) 1 (Beall). The next round of this program will be for a five-year program, and TAMC has been encouraged to apply for the funds to fully fund the Kick Start project (estimated \$8-10 million shortfall) plus the Salinas Rail full build-out (estimated \$100 million for Pajaro/Watsonville and Castroville stations and an expanded layover facility in Salinas), phased in over the five-year horizon of the grant program. The TIRCP grant guidelines are online as a **web attachment**.

DISCUSSION:

Operations Discussions

Staff attended a business plan workshop at Caltrain on September 20, a meeting of the Northern California Megaregion group on October 9, and meetings pertaining to the 2018 State Rail Plan (see other item on this month's agenda). Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

City of Salinas

Agency staff met with Salinas staff on October 16 to discuss issues pertaining to Agency-City coordination on the Intermodal Transportation Center.

Property Acquisition

TAMC hired Geocon, Inc. on September 27 to do the hazardous materials testing of the structures on parcels the Agency is acquiring for the Package 1 work (Lincoln Avenue extension and circulation/parking improvements at the train station). Geocon kicked off their work on September 29 and anticipate having a final study to the HDR design team before Thanksgiving. Simultaneously, HDR is developing the plans, specifications, and estimates for the demolition contractor so that TAMC can approve the bid documents in February 2018 and hire a demolition team in May 2018.

Staff will present an update on the status of property acquisition at the Salinas train station.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Guidelines](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: Reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE July and September 2017 CCJPA Monthly Reports.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [CCJPA Monthly Report - July 2017](#)
2. [CCJPA Monthly Report - September 2017](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: Correspondence

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE correspondence attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [August 11, 2017 letter from the City of Salinas to Caltrans, re: Salinas Rail Extension - Kick Start Project](#)
2. [September 12, 2017 letter to Mr. Bussard, First Mayor's House, and Ms. Kobrinsky Evans, Salinas City Center Improvement Association, re: Salinas Rail Station Properties and Demolition](#)
3. [Undated letter \(received September 21, 2017\) from the Salinas City Center, re: challenges caused by homeless population](#)
4. [October 16, 2017 email from Jim Hartnett, Caltrain Executive Director, re: Thank you and next steps: Caltrain Business Plan](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: November 6, 2017
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [September 20, 2017 article in the Press Democrat, "SMART reports higher-than-expected ridership over first three weeks of paid service"](#)
2. [October 4, 2017 article in the Californian, "First Mayor's House, Railroad Museum offer new exhibits this weekend"](#)
3. [October 13, 2017 article in the Carmel Pine Cone, "High-speed rail could come to Monterey"](#)
4. [October 2017 article in the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Journal, "Homeless Shelter Update"](#)