

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final Minutes of February 6, 2017

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

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

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Brenda Aguilar-Guerrero (teleconference)	Meyers-Nave	Chris Flescher	Salinas resident
McGregor Eddy	Salinas Californian	Eric Peterson	Salinas resident
Jerome Landesman	Salinas resident	Steve Kennerly	Salinas resident
Don Reynolds	City of Salinas	Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Sean Vienna	AMBAG		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerome Landesman, Salinas resident, commented on the need for new Amtrak wayfinding signs for the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado/Rubio/unanimous
Abstain: Askew

3.1 Approved minutes of the November 7, 2016 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

M/S/C Delgado/Rubio/unanimous – Electing Vice Chair Craig as Chair of the Rail Policy Committee
Rubio/LeBarre/unanimous – Electing Committee Member Delgado as Vice Chair

The Committee held elections for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year. She noted that as the previous Chair is no longer in office, this mid-period election will be for one year, and the next elections will be in February 2018 for a two-year term.

5. 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 November 7, 2016 includes meetings with the City of Salinas, new appraisals and offer letters to property owners near the Salinas train station and meetings with the state regarding negotiations with Union Pacific.

Ms. Watson reported that TAMC is working with the City of Salinas to develop 90% designs for the Lincoln Avenue extension, circulation and parking improvements to Market Street (SR 183). The 75% designs show the project approximately \$5 million over budget, depending on the cost of utility relocations and based on the updated right-of-way appraisals. Staff is looking for ways to cut costs and may apply for additional state funding to fill the gap.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, and Brenda Aguilar-Guerrero, Agency right-of-way special counsel, reported an update on the property acquisition process. As staff reported to the TAMC Board at its December 7, 2016 meeting, first offers were sent to all property owners in 2015. Staff and consultants have been continuing good faith negotiations with all property owners. Ms. Aguilar-Guerrero noted that negotiations have become longer than usual. Mr. Zeller reported that staff will recommend the TAMC Board hold a hearing to consider adopting a resolution of necessity to initiate the eminent domain process if negotiations do not progress. Ms. Aguilar-Guerrero noted that good faith negotiations will still continue during the eminent domain proceedings.

Chair Craig requested an update on the status of each property. Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, advised Board members to refer property owner questions to TAMC staff.

Vice Chair Delgado asked if there are limits to property owner compensation. Ms. Aguilar-Guerrero said property owner compensation is based on the fair market value, and that the process is meant to protect property owners as well as to safeguard public funds.

Committee Alternate Harvath noted that MST is a project partner, and asked if TAMC has a public outreach strategy for this phase of the project. Ms. Watson said staff would develop a public outreach strategy.

Ms. Watson provided an update on the 2018 California State Rail Plan. She noted that the Rail Plan identified the Salinas station as a regional hub by 2022. She reported that Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) strongly support increased passenger rail service to Salinas, and encourage TAMC to consider an alternative near-term scenario of Caltrain service on weekdays and Capitol Corridor service on weekends.

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas, asked about Union Pacific negotiations. Ms. Watson reported that CalSTA met with Union Pacific to discuss access payments for passenger rail service. Union Pacific indicated that the Coast Corridor is underutilized and that they would be open to an agreement with the state based on access payments.

Ms. Watson also reported that the California High Speed Rail Authority is working on the environmental document for the Merced to San Jose segment, and is analyzing two options for a Gilroy station, downtown and east Gilroy (Leavesley Road).

6. COAST CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Committee received an update of 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 to the Committee about the coast rail project on November 7, 2016 includes meetings of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, meetings with state agencies regarding the state rail plan, and progress on the environmental review.

Ms. Watson reported that the State Rail Plan is institutionally neutral about the operator for this project. She noted that Caltrans staff will present an update on the State Rail Plan to the Committee in April.

Ms. Watson reported on the status of the Federal environmental review to support adding new service to the Salinas-San Jose corridor. Partner stakeholder agencies have reviewed the Administrative Draft Environmental Assessment (ADEA). The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is unable to prioritize the review of the document, as the project does not have federal funding. However, having the document in administrative draft form makes the project eligible to apply for federal funding.

Committee Member LeBarre asked if National Park ridership and Fort Hunter Liggett ridership is included in the analysis. Ms. Watson said that this is something that would be considered in a grant application.

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

None.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.