

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Final Minutes of March 4, 2019
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

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

Kim Cruz	Sand City Councilmember	Brad Tarp	Salinas Resident
Dominic Dursa	Asm. Robert Rivas	Diane Tarp	Salinas Resident
Michael Cornfield	AECOM	Sean Vienna	AMBAG
Cheryl Ku	Monterey County RMA	Don Reynolds	City of Salinas

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None this month.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Delgado / Davis / unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 5, 2019 Rail Policy Committee meeting.

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 the activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update on January 7, 2019, include progress toward construction of Package 1 (improvements at the Salinas Station). She noted that CTC approved allocation of \$11.2M in state funding for construction of Package 1 in December. She stated that the bid opening is scheduled for March 13. She said that TAMC and City of Salinas staff continue to meet regularly to coordinate on utility relocation and permits needed to proceed with construction of Package 1, to resolve the utility conflicts and minimize additional delays.

Don Reynolds, City of Salinas, stated that the 100-year old sewer has collapsed, and that City staff are aiming to relocate the sewer into Railroad Avenue due to conflicts with AT&T conduit on State Route 183 (Market Street).

Committee member Davis asked Mr. Reynolds if the City of Salinas anticipates further conflicts. Mr. Reynolds responded that the sewer may have conflicts with CalWater in Railroad Avenue, and thanked TAMC staff for organizing regular meetings to help the team stay on top of emerging issues.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that Package 2 includes the layover facility and track connections. He noted that TAMC has engaged consultants to assist with the acquisition of property for Package 2. ARWS was hired as the acquisition agent, and Meyers Nave was retained to provide oversight to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. He reported that Geocon has done the soils testing for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, and HDR Engineering has completed a boundary survey to confirm the limits of the proposed acquisition of property for Package 2.

Committee member Smith asked how many properties are involved. Mr. Zeller replied that there are seven parcels involved.

Committee member Chavez asked about the status of the freight intermodal facility planned at the Salinas station. Mr. Reynolds responded he thought they had not received their grants and was uncertain of the project status. Ms. Watson said she would confirm with the City staff and report back at a future meeting.

Ms. Watson presented an update on operations scenario negotiations, noting that the High-Speed Rail project was still happening, and that staff would stay involved particularly in light of any changes at the Gilroy station.

Committee member Davis asked if there were any plans to electrify the tracks to Salinas and he also asked if ridership estimates would take transfer penalties into account. Ms. Watson responded that electrification was very expensive, and it was unlikely that the funding would be available to electrify to Salinas. Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, stated that ridership analyses do take transfers between trains or modes into account.

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 that progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee in January includes submittal of two applications for State Rail Assistance funding. The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments applied for \$800,000 in State Rail Assistance funds to develop a Coast Rail Corridor Services Implementation Plan and to acquire the license and training for rail modeling software. King City applied for \$2.4 million for the planning and design, including support for negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad, of a temporary train platform to be served by the Amtrak Coast Starlight and/or the planned future additional through-train. In conclusion, Ms. Watson noted that grant announcements are expected shortly.

6. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY

The Committee received update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the California Transportation Commission allocated \$500,000 via a state Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant to TAMC for a Network Integration Study. She noted that TAMC published a Request for Proposals on December 5, 2018, that a selection committee reviewed the three proposals and held interviews on February 21, 2019, and unanimously recommended AECOM to do this work. Staff aims to bring a contract to the TAMC Board in the near future, pending review by Caltrans.

Ms. Watson reported that TAMC staff was approached by a company interested in running a privately-operated train service connecting Monterey, Salinas, and Santa Cruz to Gilroy, and that staff was asking them for more information; when the company responds, staff will

provide an update and possibly a draft Memorandum of Understanding at a future Committee meeting.

Committee alternate Rheinheimer noted that Monterey-Salinas Transit is working on a request for proposals for preparing an environmental analysis and preliminary design of a busway in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.

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

None this month.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.