



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, April 3, 2023

****3:00 PM****

MEETING LOCATIONS

Voting members must attend a physical meeting location to count towards quorum

55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

Transportation Agency Conference Room

Alternate Locations with Zoom Connection Open to the Public

2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933

Supervisor Askew's Office

Members of the public & non-voting members may join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/654778900?pwd=L2daellZTW5NSDZMQ2RSY1hJVlpGZz09>

OR

By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 654 778 900

Password: 506977

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

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

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your 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 Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: 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 staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, 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.

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 February 6, 2023.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the February 6, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles and **DISCUSS** timing for the tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit system.

- Watson/Guther

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on Friday, February 24 to discuss grant applications and other issues of interest to the Council. The Committee tour of the SMART rail system was deferred, and staff wants to hear from the Committee on a possible reschedule of the tour.

5. **RECEIVE** update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson/Zeller

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in November include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

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

7. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, May 1, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA 93901**

A quorum of voting members is required to be present to hold this meeting.

There will be a zoom link for hybrid participation.

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

Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator

Christina@tamcmonterey.org

[Important Meeting Information](#)

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during remote meetings. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. 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 review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
www.tamcmonterey.org
55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee 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.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1. RECEIVE** correspondence attached online.
- C 2. RECEIVE** reports attached online.
- C 3. RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: **Draft RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of February 6, 2023.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the February 6, 2023 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ RPC draft minutes of February 6, 2023

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of February 6, 2023

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	MAR 22	APR 22	MAY 22	JUN 22	JUL 22	AUG 22	SEP 22	OCT 22	NOV 22	DEC 22	JAN 23	FEB 23
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	P(A)	C	P(A)	A	N	P(A)	A	C	P(A)	N	P(A)	P
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra, L. Gray)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	P(A)	A	A	O	A	P
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson , E. Mora)	P(A)	N	P	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave, C. Courtney)	E	C	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	M	E	A
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	A	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	L	A	A	E	P	P	L	P	E	P	P
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	P	L	P	A	T	P	P	L	A	T	P	A
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	P	E	P	P	I	P	P	E	P	I	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	N	A	A
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	A		P	P	G	P	P		P	G	P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Cabera, D. Wilcox)	A		A	P		P	A		A		P	P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)	P		P	P		P	P		P		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson, P. Hierling)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		A	P(A)
J. Xiao, Caltrans District 5	A		P	P		P	P		P		P	P
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)	P(A)		A	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		E	P(A)
STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director	P		P	P		P	P		P		P	P
C. Watson, Director of Planning	P		P	P		P	P		P		P	P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery	P		P	P		P	P		P		E	P
M. Montiel	P		P	P		P	P		P		P	P

Admin Assistant												
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	P		P	P		P	P		P		P	P
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer	P		P	A		P	P		P		A	P
A. Guther, Assis. Transp. Planner	P		P	E		P	P		P		P	P
T. Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	A		A	A		P	A		P		A	P
J. Strause, Transportation Planner	-		-	-		P	A		A		A	A
A. Hernandez Assis. Transp. Planner												P
Emily Belding Transportation Intern												P

P = Present A = Absent P(A) = alternate present E = Excused

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

TAMC welcomes newly appointed Rail Policy members: Glenn Church, Supervisor District 2 and Andrew Sandoval, City of Salinas.

OTHERS PRESENT

Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC	Javier Gomez	Supervisor District 1 Office
Jasmine Mejia Corez	County	Linda Gonzales	Supervisor District 1 Office
Shannon Simonds	Caltrans DRMT	Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Alex Lopez	Caltrans D5	Roland Lebrun	Public
Geneva Hurley	Public		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Scott, Costal Rail Santa Cruz, expressed that he is happy to hear about the coordination between the SCCRTC and TAMC on rail projects. He wished TAMC good luck on the grant application for the Pajaro Station.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Alejo / Medina Dirksen /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 9, 2023, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **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 and discussed the logistics of a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system in March.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that the next Policy Committee meeting would be on February 24 virtually, and the following meeting in April would be in person in San Luis Obispo, with a link for non-voting members, staff, or public to participate remotely.

Alissa Guther, Assistant Transportation Planner, reported that staff is coordinating with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) staff on a tour of the SMART system tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2023. She asked if RPC members are interested in attending the trip. Ms. Guther noted two options for the trip. One is to head to San Rafael on Thursday morning and ride the train and tour on Thursday afternoon, stay overnight in San Rafael and return on Friday March 31, or some might want to return Thursday evening. She suggested carpooling.

Committee Member Alejo noted that he was interested in attending the tour and noted that he would like to hear about finances and the lessons learned in implementing the new service.

Joanna Xiao, Caltrans District 5, asked if there is a limit on how many can go. She noted that Caltrans staff are interested in attending. Ms. Guther replied that she needs a headcount by mid-March.

Barry Scott, Costal Rail Santa Cruz, noted that he went on a tour with SCCRTC several years ago. He mentioned that Santa Cruz Metro has a new General Manager Michael Tree and would be good to invite him and his planner to join the trip.

Roland Lebrun, Member of Public, asked if members of the public be able to join the tour. Executive Director Todd Muck replied that TAMC would look into making it available at each participant's cost.

Chair LeBarre is interested in attending and asked Alissa to provide the itinerary to see the schedule times.

5. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

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

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that we have successfully executed the land transfer of the package 1 parcels to Salinas and no longer have updates on that part of the project.

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming and Project Delivery, reported that negotiations for the acquisition of properties needed for the Salinas layover facility (Package 2) and Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are ongoing.

Ms. Watson reported that the design is underway, the 100% plans were distributed in September, and that meetings continue.

Committee Member Alejo asked about phase 2 of the project, the Pajaro station, for which TAMC is seeking grant funding. Ms. Watson replied that staff is working on the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program application for Pajaro, due Friday. Awards will be announced in April.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, announced the next Committee meeting scheduled for March 6 will be cancelled due to TAMC staff and Chair LeBarre not being available. Ms. Watson noted that the April 3, 2023, meeting will be in person at the TAMC office and Supervisor Askew's office as a satellite option; locations will be noticed on the agenda. There will be a zoom link for remote participation by the public and ex-officio members.

7. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: Coast Corridor Rail 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 **DISCUSS** timing for the tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit system.

SUMMARY:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee met on Friday, February 24 to discuss grant applications and other issues of interest to the Council. The Committee tour of the SMART rail system was deferred, and staff wants to hear from the Committee on a possible reschedule of the tour.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail project capital and operation costs are under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) is a multi-agency advisory and planning organization focused on improving the rail corridor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area along the California Central Coast. Members of the Council include all regional transportation planning agencies along the Central Coast – all of which have a strong interest in improving rail service and the rail infrastructure along the Central Coast’s portion of the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor.

The CRCC Policy Committee met on February 24, 2023 and the working group met on March 17, 2023 via videoconference. **Attached** is the updated meeting schedule.

Staff attempted to arrange a tour of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system for the Rail Policy Committee, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), and Caltrans District 5 staff in late March. Only three elected officials confirmed their availability for the date, so the tour was deferred until a larger group is available, as the tour entails a significant level of effort for staff of both TAMC and SMART. The SMART map and train schedule are online as **web attachments**.

Staff will provide an update at the meeting on all activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Updated CRCC 2023 meeting calendar

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [SMART train map](#)
- [SMART train schedule](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in November include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Monterey County Rail Extension project, Phase 1, Salinas Kick Start project (the Salinas station and improvements in Santa Clara County), is estimated at \$81 million. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 1, known as the Kick Start Project, includes Salinas train station circulation improvements, a train layover facility in Salinas, and track improvements at the Gilroy station and between Salinas and Gilroy. The Kick Start Project has wrapped up construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Property Acquisition for Package 2: Salinas Layover Facility

On December 4, 2019, the Transportation Agency Board approved Resolutions of Necessity on portions of four parcels and one full parcel needed for the Salinas layover facility. TAMC staff continues to oversee the right-of-way special counsel from Burke, Williams, & Sorensen to further negotiations and finalize the remaining acquisitions in Salinas, and the team of Bender Rosenthal and Nossaman for Union Pacific property access negotiations.

Final Design for Package 2 and Package 3: Gilroy Station & Track Improvements

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and has gathered stakeholder input on those plans. The final design team held the following meetings to further the project's design:

- High-Speed Rail, Gilroy, Caltrain, Caltrans, and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) related to Gilroy station and track coordination - February 9, March 13, 15, and 21

Operations Discussions

On March 2, 2023, the Caltrain Joint Powers Board (JPB) adopted the Memorandum of Understanding related to the extension of Caltrain service from Gilroy to Salinas (**web attachment**). The JPB resolution makes the service extension contingent on a fourth round trip of Caltrain service to Gilroy (**attached**).

Staff will present a verbal update on all activities at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- JPB Resolution

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [TAMC-JPB Memorandum of Understanding](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 –

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

* * *

Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director, or Designee, to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Transportation Agency of Monterey County and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Regarding the Extension of Caltrain Service From Gilroy to Salinas

Whereas, Caltrain and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) have a cooperative working relationship for planning, development, and implementation of the extension of Caltrain passenger rail service from Gilroy to Salinas (the “Project”); and

Whereas, through previous transportation planning studies, TAMC and the State of California determined that they needed to invest in a system of premium transit services that could better compete with traveling by automobile and attract new riders from the automotive modes of travel in order to provide additional transportation capacity in the US 101 Corridor, thereby reducing congestion, improving air quality, and saving energy in the Monterey Bay Area and San Francisco Bay Area; and

Whereas, the Governor and the Legislature expressed their support and endorsement of this Project by providing funding for the Project from the Traffic Congestion Relief Act of 2000, the Proposition 116 Rail Bond, the Public Transportation Account, and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program; and

Whereas, the Caltrans State Rail Plan of 2018 includes this service in its near-term scenario; and

Whereas, in order to provide safe, efficient and effective transportation alternatives to the automobile, TAMC adopted a resolution endorsing the Extension of Rail Service into Monterey County as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the US 101 corridor on January 31, 2007; and

Whereas, Caltrain adopted a Gilroy-Salinas Feasibility Study on April 27, 2020, which specifies that the Project shall be cost-neutral to Caltrain and which outlines a range of issues that will need to be confirmed or clarified; and

Whereas, TAMC, as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), certified the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on August 23, 2006, and adopted an

Addendum to the EIR on August 28, 2013, which EIR and Addendum to the EIR contemplate the actions described herein; and

Whereas, it is recognized that, with respect to some of the provisions set forth herein, numerous actions must be taken pursuant to federal, state, and local laws and regulations before such policies can be implemented; and

Whereas, the purpose of the MOU is to provide a framework for the Parties' cooperation, and the respective duties of the Parties will be set forth in subsequent permits and agreements;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director, or designee, to execute the MOU, in substantially the same form as set forth in Attachment A, and to take all necessary actions to implement the MOU following execution of the MOU, and directs the Executive Director, or designee, to ensure that Caltrain provides the promised level of service to Gilroy before expanding service south of Gilroy, unless circumstances warrant reconsideration of this directive, in which case the matter shall be brought back to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Regularly passed and adopted this 2nd day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Chair, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

ATTEST:

JPB Secretary

Prepared By: Sam Sargent

Director, Strategy and Policy

650-730-6223



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: Correspondence

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE correspondence attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Letters of support for Pajaro Watsonville Multimodal Transit Station Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding application](#)
- [February 10, 2023, letter to Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency, regarding: Support for the King City Accelerated Platform and Multimodal Transit Station, from TAMC Executive Director Todd Muck](#)
- [February 21, 2023 letter to The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, United States Department of Transportation, regarding: Support for Monterey-Salinas Transit District SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project from TAMC Executive Director Todd Muck](#)
- [March 16, 2023 letter to The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, United States Department of Transportation, regarding: SUPPORT for the Caltrans Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID Program Grant Application, from TAMC Executive Director Todd Muck](#)
- [March 17, 2023 letter to Alec Barton, City of Marina, regarding: Monterey Branch Line Lease Amendment, from TAMC Executive Director Todd Muck](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: Reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Draft California State Rail Plan released for public comment \(due May 10\)](#)
- [January 2023 Capitol Corridor monthly report](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [March 9, 2023 article on KSBW, "Biden-Harris administration recommends Monterey County transit project"](#)
- [March 10, 2023 article in Mass Transit, "President Biden's FY2024 Budget includes \\$4.45B CIG Program request"](#)