



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, June 7, 2021

****2:00 PM****

REMOTE CONFERENCING ONLY

There will be NO physical location of the meeting.

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

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

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.

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.

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 May 3, 2021.

- Montiel

The draft minutes of the May 3, 2021 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

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

- Watson

Progress since the last update to this Committee in May includes an outreach meeting for the Coast Rail Corridor Study on May 18.

3.3. RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update in May include work related to closing out permits for the construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. RECEIVE update on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project along the Monterey Branch Line from Marina to Sand City/Seaside.

- Jacobsen/Rheinheimer

Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in November 2019. The project is one of the listed regional projects in the Measure X Transportation

Safety and Investment Plan approved by the voters in 2016.

5. **RECEIVE** update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study virtual open house.

- Watson

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in May includes publication of the draft Study via a virtual open house to seek public input. Comments are due June 30.

6. **DISCUSS** whether to keep the meeting time at 2:00 p.m. or change back to 3:00 p.m.

- Watson

On February 1, 2021, the Committee approved temporarily changing the meeting time at 2:00 p.m. with reconsideration of the meeting time at the June meeting.

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

8. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Rail Policy Committee meeting:
Monday, August 2, 2021 at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m.

**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 Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhances State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. The public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited

opportunity to provide verbal comments during the meeting. 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 Thursday 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
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice
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.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS

- C 1.** No correspondence this agenda.
- 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: June 7, 2021
Subject: **Draft May RPC Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE minutes of the Rail Policy Committee meeting of May 3, 2021.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the May 3, 2021 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Draft May RPC Minutes

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT Minutes of May 3, 2021
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
ZOOM REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

	MAY 20	JUN 20	JUL 20	AUG 20	SEP 20	OCT 20	NOV 20	JAN 21	FEB 21	MAR 21	APR 21	MAY 21
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez, J. Gomez)	-	-	N	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)
J. Phillips, Dist. 2 (J. Stratton, C. Link)	P(A)	P(A)	O	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	A	P(A)	P(A)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	N	P(A)	-	P(A)	E	N	P(A)	P(A)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (S. Hardgrave , C. Courtney)	P(A)	P(A)	M	P(A)	C	P(A)	E	E	P(A)	C	P(A)	P(A)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
C. Medina Dirksen, Marina (B. Delgado)	P	P	E	-	L	-	-	-	P	L	-	-
E. Smith, Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny)	P	P	T	E	L	P	P	P	P	L	P	P
K. Craig, Salinas, (C. Cromeenes)	P	P	I	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P
G. Hawthorne, Sand City (J. Blackwelder , K. Cruz)	P(A)	P(A)	N	P(A)	D	-	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	D	P(A)	P(A)
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)	P	P	G	P		-	-	P	P		P	P
A. Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P		P		-	P	-	P		-	P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair	P	P		P		P	P	-	E		P	P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	-	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
O. Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans District 5	P	-		-		-	-		P		-	-
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer)	-	P(A)		P(A)		P(A)	P(A)	P(A)	P(A)		P(A)	P(A)
STAFF												
D. Hale, Exec. Director	P	P		P		P	P	P	P		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
T. Wright, Outreach Coordinator	P	P		P		-	P	P	P		P	-
M. Montiel Admin Assistant	P	P		P		P	P	P	P		P	P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer	E	P		P		P	-	P	P		P	P
M. Jacobsen, Transportation Planner	P	P		P		P	P	P	P		P	P
D. Bilsse, Principal Engineer											P	-

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Ryan Park	AECOM	Ginger Dykaar	SCCRTC
Tarah Brady	Caltrans	Alan C. Miller	Caltrans
Benson Kwong	Caltrans		

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Christina Watson announced that she forwarded an email from Orchid Monroy-Ochoa at Caltrans. They are having an outreach meeting on May 27, 2021 about the US 101 Business Plan. For more information, please see the document via email or contact Orchid.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Potter/Craig /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the April 5, 2021 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. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RAIL LINE UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on their rail corridor studies.

Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, presented an overview of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail line. She noted that at its February 4, 2021 meeting, the RTC accepted the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Rail Network Integrations Study (TCAA/RNIS) that selected Electric Passenger Rail as the locally preferred alternative. The final component of the TCAA/RNIS was a 25-year Strategic Business Plan for Electric Passenger Rail. Ms. Dykaar noted that at its April 1, 2021 meeting, the RTC vote was split 6/6 to accept the business plan and direct staff to seek funding. The Commissioners requested staff to bring back the item on May 6 with options for how to meet the Caltrans grant requirements. It was noted that TAMC sent a letter of support for the Business Plan.

5. RAIL NETWORK INTEGRATION STUDY UPDATE

M/S/C Craig/Potter/unanimous

The Committee received an update, provided input on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study, and recommended the Board of Directors approve making the draft Study available for public review.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Ryan Park, AECOM, who presented the draft Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study. He noted that the team would host an online “open house” on the draft study upon Board approval.

Christina Watson noted that ridership questions raised at the April meeting have been answered and the team will amend draft Network Integration Study accordingly. She noted that Caltrans approved a deadline extension for this study, so staff will bring a time extension for the AECOM contract to the June Board meeting. She noted that the outreach effort will be extended as a result, and staff now plans to bring the final draft study to the August Rail Policy Committee and TAMC Board.

The Committee provided the following input on the draft Network Integration Study:

- Highlight population analysis with a five-mile radius around stations.
- Emphasize that cost estimates are discrete by phase.

6. SALINAS RAIL KICK START PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project and provided direction to staff regarding the transfer of the land for package 1 to the City of Salinas.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that requests to extend funding for the Monterey County Rail Extension project will be going to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in May.

Laurie Williamson, Senior Engineer, reported that the construction team continues to work towards project completion. She noted that the construction team is working on closing out permits.

Christina Watson noted that staff continues to coordinate with the City of Salinas on the land transfer which would likely go to the August TAMC Board meeting. She noted that the City needs to submit a map showing where replacement parking would be accessible for transit riders to the CTC for approval of the property transfer.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that staff and consultants continue to further negotiations on properties. He noted that a closed session was held at the April TAMC Board meeting.

Ms. Watson reported that design meetings are going well. She noted that the team will discuss platform furniture design at a City of Salinas meeting on Wednesday.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Watson announced the next Committee meeting is on June 7, 2021 at 2pm and at that meeting, the Committee will discuss the start time of the meeting.

Committee member Mike LeBarre noted that King City staff met with Amtrak and discussed the feasibility study for a future stop at King City.

Committee member Yuri Anderson mentioned that the Herald a story on the handcar project on the Monterey Branch line in Marina received positive social buzz.

8. ADJOURN

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
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.

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update to this Committee in May includes an outreach meeting for the Coast Rail Corridor Study on May 18.

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 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 next working group meeting is scheduled for June 18 and the next policy meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 8:30 am via videoconference. **Web attachment 1** is the updated meeting schedule.

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) held a virtual public meeting on the Coast Rail Corridor Study (see **web attachment 2**) on May 18.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)
2. [Coast Rail study website](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
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 May include work related to closing out permits for the construction of Package 1 (Salinas Station access and circulation improvements) and 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.

On May 13, the California Transportation Commission approved the following funding extensions:

- Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) #14 for right-of-way acquisition in Salinas: new expiration date June 30, 2022.
- TCRP #7.3 for construction of improvements at Gilroy: new expiration date November 30, 2024.
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for construction in Salinas: programming change to move funds to fiscal year 2022/23.

Package 1 is under construction by MPE Engineering for an original contract amount of \$7,487,989 with a contingency fund of \$1,123,200. Approved change orders to date total \$772,875.74, or 68.8% of the contingency fund approved by the Board.

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 is proceeding with wrapping 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.

Construction of Package 1: Salinas Station Improvements

TAMC hired Monterey Peninsula Engineering (MPE) for construction of Package 1, MNS Engineers as Construction Managers on the project, and HDR Engineering to provide design support during construction. In May 2021, the construction team worked to close out the Caltrans, stormwater, and Salinas permits. The stormwater permit was closed out on April 26. As-built plans were provided to Caltrans and Salinas to close out their permits. Once the permits have been closed, remaining work is landscaping maintenance through December 2021.

TAMC staff is coordinating with Caltrans and the City of Salinas on the logistics to transfer ownership of the completed project to the City, pursuant to the adopted Memorandum of Understanding. The land transfer must be approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) prior to the City and TAMC approving transfer agreements. The CTC is requiring the City to commit to replacing any parking spaces used for future development in a location walking distance from the station.

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 has received the deed for one parcel and continues to oversee the right-of-way consulting team of AR/WS and Meyers Nave to further negotiations and finalize the remaining acquisitions.

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

The final design team held the following meetings to further the project's design:

- Caltrans and Caltrain - May 19 and 27
- City of Salinas - May 5, 19, and 26
- City of Gilroy - May 10
- Northern California Rail Working Group - May 13



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
Subject: **SURF! Busway Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project along the Monterey Branch Line from Marina to Sand City/Seaside.

SUMMARY:

Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in November 2019. The project is one of the listed regional projects in the Measure X Transportation Safety and Investment Plan approved by the voters in 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The preliminary engineering and environmental analysis phase of the project is budgeted to cost \$1,550,000. Measure X is the primary funding for this phase with Monterey-Salinas Transit contributing \$100,000 of its share of Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program funds and \$69,000 in federal dollars. Funding for all phases of the Highway 1 SURF! Busway project is available from Measure X (up to a total of \$15 million). Additional matching funds will be needed to fully fund the project, which currently has a total estimated cost of \$55.8 million for all phases of work.

DISCUSSION:

In 2018, MST completed the Monterey Bay Area Feasibility Study of Bus Operations on State Route 1 Shoulders and the Monterey Branch Line. The study analyzed seven alternatives and concluded that implementing a bus rapid transit corridor on a segment of the Monterey Branch Line would provide the greatest benefit for the investment. At the August 6, 2018 Rail Policy Committee meeting, MST staff presented an overview of the feasibility study, including next steps.

In Fall 2019, MST hired Kimley-Horn for the environmental review and preliminary design phase of work, and the project officially kicked-off on November 21, 2019. The following outlines the project's progress regarding project design, environmental compliance and funding.

Project Design

The Busway enters the Monterey Branch Line right-of-way at Del Monte Boulevard and Palm Avenue in Marina, and exits the rail right-of-way at California Avenue and Fremont Street in Sand City. The busway parallels Highway 1 for approximately six miles. The majority of the busway runs on the east side of the rail right-of-way, with minimal crossing points over the rail tracks. As discussed during the October 5, 2020 Committee meeting, there are three proposed crossings over the rail line due to physical and geographic constraints in the corridor, and to minimize project costs. The

three proposed crossings include:

1. Crossing of the rail tracks before 8th Street due to the existing bridge columns east of the rail. This will avoid impacting the Caltrans bridge structure.
2. Crossing the rail tracks to reconnect with the east side of the corridor before a connection at 5th Street. The connection at 5th Street connects the buses with the proposed 5th Street Transit Station.
3. After re-entering the rail right-of-way outside the 5th Street Transit Station, the busway runs the remainder of the way on the east side of the rail right-of-way until exiting the rail right-of-way at California Avenue and Fremont Street, where the buses re-enter mixed traffic.

The project's 15% design plans were completed in December 2020, and the team is currently refining the 35% plans. The process of reaching 35% design includes refining geometric layout, identifying locations for retaining walls, major drainage facilities and traffic signal improvements. This includes identifying the needs for cut and fill processes (moving dirt) which can significantly affect project cost. The 35% design plans are currently under review by both TAMC and MST staff. The project team also held a recent coordination meeting with Caltrans District 5 staff.

Environmental Compliance

Monterey-Salinas Transit is the Lead Agency for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). MST released a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration on March 13, 2021. The public review period is open from March 13, 2021 through April 12, 2021. A public hearing on the project was held at the May 10, 2021 MST Board Meeting. The public hearing will continue to the June 14, 2021 MST Board meeting at 10:00am for the below limited purposes:

1. Consider findings and adopt the final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration;
2. Approve the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
3. Approve the project.

The environmental document is available at <https://mst.org/about-mst/planning-development/surf>.

Funding

MST is actively coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to apply for a Capital Investment Grant, a discretionary grant program to support transit capital investments including busway/bus rapid transit. The project has been accepted into the Project Development phase of FTA's Capital Investments Grants program and MST and TAMC have been meeting quarterly with FTA to discuss project development. Using Measure X funding approved at the January TAMC Board meeting, MST hired a consultant to lead technical analysis required to reach a grant agreement with FTA.

The project team anticipates applying again to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program this upcoming cycle.

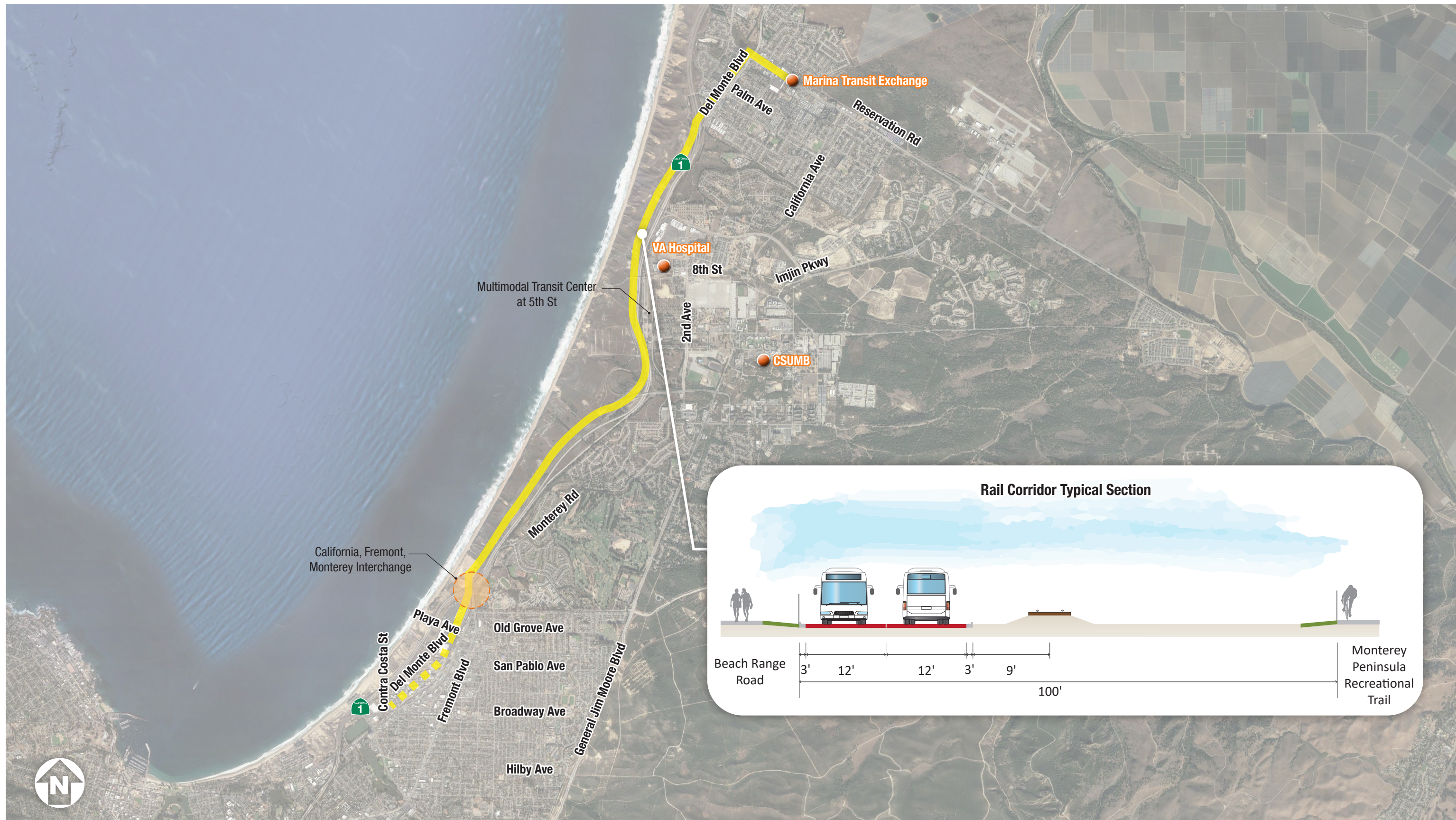
Timeline

The overall project timeline for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project is:

- Data collection (Fall 2019-Summer 2020)
- Preliminary engineering and design (Summer 2020-Winter 2020/21)
- Environmental compliance (Summer 2020-Spring 2021)
- Final engineering and design (Summer 2022-Fall 2023)
- Construction (Beginning Spring 2024)
- Operation (Beginning Spring 2027)

ATTACHMENTS:

- SURF Busway - Overall Project Map





Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
Subject: Rail Network Integration Study Open House

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study virtual open house.

SUMMARY:

The study will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area. Progress on the study since the last report to this Committee in May includes publication of the draft Study via a virtual open house to seek public input. Comments are due June 30.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The study has a budget of \$500,000, funded out of the state Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program: \$350,000 for consultant costs and \$150,000 for staff and in-house costs. The study will be the foundation for future applications for rail capital and operations grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration 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. This study will also assist TAMC by providing the data needed to prepare grant applications for funding new stations at Pajaro/Watsonville, Castroville, Soledad and King City.

The study is intended to provide information for the TAMC Rail Policy Committee to consider in recommendations to the TAMC Board of Directors as to next steps on implementing rail projects in Monterey County connecting to the Central Coast and the Northern California megaregion.

Staff and consultants will present on the Network integration Study virtual open house, available via the project website (**web attachment**). Comments on the draft study are due June 30, 2021. The final study will be presented to the Committee on August 2 and to the Board on August 25 for adoption.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study website](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
Subject: Rail Policy Committee Meeting Time

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS whether to keep the meeting time at 2:00 p.m. or change back to 3:00 p.m.

SUMMARY:

On February 1, 2021, the Committee approved temporarily changing the meeting time at 2:00 p.m. with reconsideration of the meeting time at the June meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial impact.

DISCUSSION:

On November 2, 2020, the Committee adopted a meeting schedule for 2021 for 3:00 p.m. on the following Mondays:

- January 11
- February 1
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 7
- August 2
- September 13
- October 4
- November 1

In January 2021, a recurring meeting was set for every Monday at 3:00 p.m. by Supervisor Root Askew for all of the County's Mayors. This meeting creates a conflict for five Rail Policy Committee members.

On February 1, 2021, the Committee voted in favor of a temporary rescheduling of the RPC meeting to a 2:00 p.m. start time so that those members can attend both meetings. The vote included a reconsideration of the meeting time at the June meeting.



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
Subject: Reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE reports attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [April 2021 Capitol Corridor monthly report](#)



Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [April 28, 2021 article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, "Rail and trail advocates rally in Aptos Village"](#)
- [May 6, 2021 article in the Santa Cruz Good Times, "RTC hits 'timeout' on rail plan in attempt to ease tensions: Push to reconsider recent split vote was shelved"](#)
- [May 6, 2021 article in the Monterey County Herald, "Criticisms voiced against major Monterey Peninsula bus project"](#)
- [May 7, 2021 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "A new long-distance bus service expands to Monterey"](#)
- [May 13, 2021 blog post on Transportation for America, "Why we need federal operations funding for public transit"](#)
- [May 18, 2021 article in the Monterey County Weekly, "MST moves forward with plans for a new bus lane along Highway 1, from Marina to Seaside"](#)
- [May 24, 2021 article in the Campbell Patch, "UPDATE: San Jose Transit Agency Selects Its New Leader: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority has a new leader at its helm"](#)