



February 12, 2024

Ms. Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission (CTC)
1120 N Street, Room 2233 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Teresa Favila

Subject: Monterey Branch Line: Proposition 116 Funding

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is committed to pursuing passenger rail service on the Monterey Branch Line, the purchase of which was funded by Proposition 116 Rail Bond funds.

The TAMC Board demonstrated this ongoing commitment to passenger rail on the Monterey Branch Line via adoption of the Monterey Bay Area Network Integration Study on August 25, 2021. The Final Network Integration Study can be found online here: https://bit.ly/TAMC_NIS_2021. The vision service scenario shows a passenger rail service on the Monterey Branch Line, connecting “around the bay” to the Santa Cruz Branch Line, enabling a one-seat ride from the City of Monterey to the City of Santa Cruz in the full buildout scenario and connecting to intercity passenger service on the coast rail line at the community of Castroville.

The initial service scenario shows TAMC’s support for the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project within the TAMC-owned Monterey Branch Line corridor as a precursor to rail service. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recommended the TAMC Board pursue BRT service to demonstrate demand for rail service on the corridor. As a result, the TAMC Board approved the BRT project in its Measure X local transportation sales tax ballot measure in 2016. Thanks to Measure X and Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant funding, the BRT project is now at 95% design and is ready to go to construction in 2025, once the required permits have been approved.

TAMC staff respectfully requests that CTC staff respond with their acceptance of this letter and concurrence that TAMC is in compliance with the intent of Proposition 116 for the implementation of rail service on the corridor.

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Thank you for your continued support of passenger rail service in Monterey County. TAMC appreciates our strong partnership with the California Transportation Commission. Please contact Christina Watson, TAMC Director of Planning, at (831) 775-4406 or christina@tamcmonterey.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Muck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'M'.

Todd A. Muck
Executive Director