



Regional Transportation Planning Agency • Congestion Management Planning  
Local Transportation Commission • Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways  
January 15, 2019

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Subject: Unified Corridor Investment Study Comments from TAMC**

Dear Chair Botorff and Members of the Commission:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) supports the consideration of alternatives such as passenger rail service, excursion rail service, freight rail service, and a bike and pedestrian trail along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) in the preferred scenario of the Unified Corridor Investment Study, as they are consistent with our plans for rail service on the Central Coast and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic trail.

TAMC is moving forward with a project that will provide residents and visitors the option of traveling by rail to and from Monterey County. The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas, passing through Pajaro, where the rail line connects to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The first phase of the Monterey County Service Extension is underway and includes construction of a multimodal transportation hub in Salinas. Phase 2 includes construction of a station at Pajaro. TAMC also owns the Monterey Branch Rail Line that preserves the opportunity for providing passenger rail service to the Monterey Peninsula in the future.

TAMC is also moving forward to develop a Monterey Bay Area Rail Network Integration Study, which will lay the groundwork for implementing the State Rail Plan in the Monterey Bay Area by 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 the Transportation Agency by providing the data needed to prepare grant applications for funding new stations, including a station at Pajaro/Watsonville.

Implementation of passenger rail service along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line with a connection to Monterey County rail services at Pajaro would provide Monterey Bay Area residents, businesses and visitors with improved access and mobility, social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic benefit.

Sincerely,

*DLH*  
Debra L. Hale  
Executive Director

CC: Guy Preston, Executive Director, RTC