



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: CALTRAIN SERVICE
EXTENSION TO SALINAS

DATE: 05-02-07

Approved

Date

5/4/07

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution endorsing the extension of Caltrain service from Gilroy to Monterey County.

OUTCOME

The City of San José will support the extension of Caltrain commuter rail service to Salinas, in Monterey County.

BACKGROUND

As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is responsible for the planning, funding and implementation of roadway and transit projects throughout the Monterey Bay region. One of the many transportation priorities put forth by TAMC is the extension of Caltrain Commuter Rail service from Gilroy to the City of Salinas, in Monterey County (hereinafter, "Caltrain Extension Project").

The Monterey Bay region continues to experience significant population growth, while the Silicon Valley remains a primary job center. Consequently, as traffic congestion continues to increase, the pressure to identify alternative modes of transportation between these regions continues to grow. With proposed stations in Salinas, Pajaro, and Castroville, the Caltrain Extension Project would provide a safe, efficient, and highly effective transportation alternative to the automobile.

TAMC has an adopted Environmental Impact Report for the Caltrain Extension Project that clears the project to a Caltrain station in Salinas. Future extension to the City of Monterey, while preferred, is not being considered as part of the Caltrain Extension Project. The Caltrain

Extension Project has secured \$23 million in state funding to complete the initial design work. Total estimated costs of the Caltrain Extension Project is \$70 million

ANALYSIS

The City of San José has been steadfast in its support for the extension of Caltrain Commuter Rail service to Southern Santa Clara County and beyond by consistently working with Caltrain, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and Santa Clara County cities to increase the number of daily trains to Morgan Hill and Gilroy. The City of San José has long been a proponent of extending Caltrain service into the Monterey Bay area, and views the extension as an important long-term transit alternative and a vital tool to address traffic congestion in the US 101 corridor.

It should be noted that initial traffic studies conducted as part of the South County Circulation Study show that a majority of the volume of automobile traffic into the Bay Area that will be generated by future increases in jobs and housing in the region will come from outside of Santa Clara County. Encouraging the development of transportation alternatives, such as the Caltrain Extension Project, that can provide relief in what is an already congested corridor will be beneficial to the entire region.

The Caltrain Extension Project is considered to be one of the top three transportation projects for the Monterey Bay region. Caltrain Extension Project staff is in the process of completing an Alternatives Analysis for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in an attempt to secure federal funds to complete the project. City of San José support for the Caltrain Extension Project is an important component of the Monterey Bay Region's advocacy efforts for the project and will greatly improve their ability to obtain additional funding.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a

Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This report will be posted on the City's website as part of the Council Agenda public outreach process. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and the Salinas Department of Public Works have completed and approved an environmental document for the Caltrain Extension Project, and are in the midst of completing an Alternatives Analysis for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), both of which include significant public outreach components.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Office of the City Attorney.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

Not applicable

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

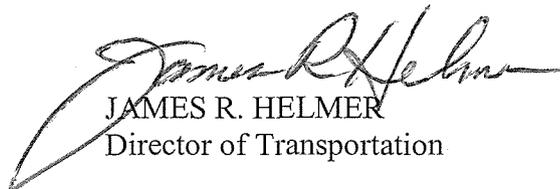
Not applicable

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable

CEQA

Not a project.


JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Ben Tripousis, Transportation Systems Manager, at (408) 975-3717.

Attachment

RESOLUTION

ENDORSEMENT OF THE EXTENSION OF CALTRAIN SERVICE FROM GILROY TO SALINAS AND MONTEREY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the City of San José is committed to improving the regional transportation infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide safe, efficient, and effective transportation alternatives to the automobile, the City of San José has supported the Extension of Caltrain Commuter Rail Service to Southern Santa Clara County and into Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay region continues to experience significant population growth, while the Silicon Valley remains a primary job center, consequently increasing traffic congestion and the pressure to identify alternative modes of transportation between these regions; and

WHEREAS, with proposed stations in Salinas, Pajaro and Castroville, the Caltrain Extension Project will provide a safe, efficient, and highly effective transportation alternative to the automobile; and

WHEREAS, the City of San José has been steadfast in its support for the extension of Caltrain Commuter Rail service to Southern Santa Clara County and beyond by consistently working with Caltrain, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and Santa Clara County cities to increase the number of daily trains to Morgan Hill and Gilroy; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council that the City of San José endorses the Caltrain Extension of Commuter Rail Service into Monterey County with stations in Salinas, Pajaro, and Castroville as an appropriate means of addressing traffic congestion by providing viable transportation alternatives between Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the San José City Council, State of California, this _____ day of May 2007.

NOES:

AYES:

ABSENT:

Chuck Reed
Mayor

Lee Price
City Clerk