



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**May 24, 2023**

### **TAMC Board of Directors Receives State Route 156/Castroville Boulevard Project Update**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors received an update on the status of the State Route 156 / Castroville Boulevard project from Mike Zeller, TAMC's Director of Programming & Project Delivery and Mike Lew, Caltrans Project Manager.

The presentation reported that the deadline to request allocation of the State Route 156 / Castroville Boulevard Interchange project's \$20 million Trade Corridor Enhancement Program funding allocation is June 30, 2023. The project will not be "ready to list" by this deadline, due to PG&E utility relocation work that will not be completed until December 2023. To avoid losing funding, California Transportation Commission staff supports an at-risk allocation at the June CTC meeting, conditional upon Caltrans receiving all approvals from PG&E to finish the right-of-way certification before the construction contract is awarded.

A total of \$29.5 million has been secured from various local and state sources to construct the SR 156 / Castroville Boulevard Interchange project. Additionally, recent construction cost estimates for the project have come in \$18 million higher than the originally budgeted \$29.5 million. According to the Baseline Agreement between Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, and TAMC, the additional costs are proposed to come from the state's Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and TAMC's share was approved by the Board to come from Measure X funds previously dedicated for this project.

The State Route 156 / Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is one of the regional safety and mobility projects listed in Measure X and approved by 67.7% of Monterey County voters in 2016.

## **TAMC Highway Project Corridor Advisor Provides Update on SR 68 and US 101 Projects**

Tony Harris of PointC, Project Corridor Advisor, hired by TAMC to assist with project development for Measure X funded highway projects in Monterey County provided an update on the US 101 South of Salinas and the State Route 68 Scenic Highway projects.

Measure X identified \$160 million to be allocated for regional road safety and congestion improvements. The Transportation Safety and Investment Plan allocates \$82 million of these funds to projects along State Route 68, State Route 156, and US 101. Mr. Harris was hired to assist staff deliver projects on schedule and within the approved budget.

The US 101 South of Salinas project and the State Route 68 Scenic Highway project are both in the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation phase. The Caltrans design team is developing conceptual plans for the US 101 project that will be used to define the project's environmental impacts. Recent flooding events have emphasized the need to coordinate this project with stormwater management efforts along the highway.

Once conceptual designs are completed, a series of public outreach engagements with the Chualar community are scheduled to occur later this year. Staff also continues to coordinate work on this project with the US 101 Traffic Safety Alliance.

The project to construct a northbound auxiliary lane on US 101 near Spence Road is expected to start construction before the end of the year, with completion due early next year.

Mr. Harris reported that the Caltrans design team is close to completing the conceptual plans that define the environmental impacts for the State Route 68 Scenic Highway project; and that he is assisting staff with identifying potential funding sources that can be used to leverage the Measure X funds allocated to both projects.

With community engagement a critical component of the State Route 68 project, staff has tentatively scheduled the first of several community engagement events to be held at a venue near Laguna Seca. The first is on July 19, 2023, in the hospitality pavilion at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca. This meeting will update the public on the project status, discuss what is being studied in the environmental document, and explain how stakeholders can submit input.

- [US 101 South of Salinas project website](#)
- [State Route 68 Scenic Highway project website](#)

## **National Public Works Week**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County's proclamation of the week of May 21 – May 27 as National Public Works Week joins others from around California and the United States to pay tribute to our public works planners, engineers, managers, administrative staff and operators in recognition of the substantial contributions they make to our community's health, safety, and quality of life.

The theme for the 2023 National Public Works Week is "Connecting the World Through Public Works". Public works is the thread that connects us all, no matter where we live in the world. Every public works professional strives to improve the quality of life for the community they serve, leading to healthier, safer communities. The "Connecting the World Through Public Works" theme highlights the way public works professionals connect us physically, through infrastructure, and inspirationally, through service to their communities, whether as first responders, or daily workers carrying out their duties with pride. Public works connectors help keep communities strong by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities great places to live and work.

## **California Office of Traffic Safety Seeks Traffic Safety Champions**

As the number of traffic fatalities on California roadways continues to rise, many people across the state struggle with the loss of a friend or family member or suffer serious injuries and significant hardship from a crash. According to the latest projections from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 4,400 people were killed in traffic crashes in California in 2022, or 12 people every day. A disproportionate number of those deaths affect Californians of color and low-income communities.

To address this crisis on our roads, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) launched the "[Go Safely Movement](#)" campaign with the help of its traffic safety partners the [California State Transportation Agency](#) (CalSTA), [California Department of Transportation](#) (Caltrans) and [California Highway Patrol](#) (CHP). The campaign aims to establish a strong safety culture in California by raising awareness of the roadway crisis and encouraging people to take a [Community Call to Action Survey](#). Results of the survey will help inform the OTS' highway safety planning efforts and identify "traffic safety champions" to promote more community-level involvement in traffic safety initiatives.

The Go Safely Movement will strengthen connections with communities, provide access to resources and promote traffic safety across transportation systems.

To learn more about the Go Safely Movement, visit [gosafelyca.org/thegosafelymovement](https://gosafelyca.org/thegosafelymovement), and follow Go Safely on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and Instagram [@OTS\\_CA](#) and [@GoSafelyCA](#).