

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**January 23, 2019**

#### **TAMC Board Elects New Officers & Executive Committee Members**

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County elected the following members to serve as their officers and members of the Executive Committee:

- Chair, Mayor Pro Tempore Robert Huitt, City of Pacific Grove
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Supervisor Luis Alejo, District 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Councilmember Ed Smith, City of Monterey
- Past Chair, Supervisor John Phillips, District 2
- County Representative, Supervisor Mary Adams, District 5
- City Presentative, Mayor Mike LeBarre, City of King

Their terms begin upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence Awards**

The Transportation Agency presented their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor community members, programs and projects that make a significant contribution to improve transportation in Monterey County. This year's recipients include a transit volunteer, a group of Monterey County leaders, a "street event" in south county event and safety projects spanning the regions from Big Sur to North Monterey County and Salinas.

Here are the individuals, programs and projects award recipients:

***Jennifer Cline***, for her dedication and service to others through her volunteer service with Monterey-Salinas Transit. Serving as a volunteer in the MST Navigator Program for the past 5 years, Jennifer regularly rides the MST bus system aiding other riders as needed. She is also participated in the MST travel training program which enables her to help individuals with limited experience and encourage them to ride the bus safely and independently. Along with these acts of service, Jennifer volunteers to work alongside MST staff at community centers and outreach events to promote riding the MST bus system and to provide information on MST's Mobility programs.

**Monterey County “No on Prop. 6” Leaders**, were recognized for their active role in reaching beyond their own organizations to educate others in Monterey County about the negative impacts of Proposition 6. Their efforts, and the efforts of similar organizations and volunteers throughout the state, succeeded in defeating Proposition 6. Their activities were of critical importance because the passage of Proposition 6 would have resulted in an annual loss of over \$30 million in dedicated transportation funding to our region. As a result, this additional funding can now be used to match local Measure X and other monies to deliver transportation safety and congestion relief projects of local, regional and state significance.

The members of the Monterey County “No on Prop. 6” Leaders are:

- Kevin Dayton, Salinas Valley Taxpayers Association
- Barbara Meister, Monterey Bay Aquarium/Monterey County Hospitality Association
- Kate Roberts, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
- Deanna Sessums, California League of Cities
- Rod Smalley, Operating Engineers, Local 3
- Nathan Stoope, American Council of Engineering Consultants, Monterey Bay Chapter

**Ciclovía Gonzales** is a free community event that focuses on creating healthy communities through the building of partnerships among city residents, school districts, nonprofit agencies and the broader community. This award recognized the Monterey County Health Department, the City of Gonzales and Building Healthy Communities for their partnership to create the first Ciclovía event in south Monterey County. As a family event, that closes the streets to motor vehicle traffic, Ciclovía Gonzales’ success can be measure by the 900 community members who came out to this open space to enjoy biking, walking, free activities, services, and information in a safe environment.

**“Ride the 40’s On Us,”** is a creative and innovative program to promote transit ridership in the Salinas area. Through this program, introduced by Monterey-Salinas Transit in September 2017, residents have been able to ride all bus lines numbered in the “40s”, and parallel ADA paratransit service, on holidays and weekends for free. Under this program, ridership on the weekends and holidays increased 80% - increasing MST’s overall systemwide ridership by 2.3% and bucking the national downward trend in bus ridership.

The other awards presented during the ceremony were given to the project teams for the following projects:

- **Castroville Ped/Bike/Railroad Crossing Bridge**
- **Fremont Street/El Sausal Safe Routes to School**
- **Mud Creek Land Slide**
- **West Broadway Avenue Improvements**

The Excellence Awards Ceremony concluded with a special award recognition to **State Senator Anthony Cannella**, for his service as a leader on transportation issues as a member of the California State Senate representing Monterey County, and a member of

the Senate Transportation Committee. Over the years, he advocated for improved transportation in Monterey County, carrying legislation to support rail service and public-private partnerships.

Senator Cannella's most significant contribution to transportation was his landmark vote in favor of Senate Bill 1. By doing so, he helped to assure that transportation would finally have a stable funding source over the long term. Senator Canella was the only Republican in the Assembly or Senate to vote in favor of this legislation, and in doing so, he suffered extensive criticism from his party and constituents. However, when asked to repeal Senate Bill 1, through Proposition 6, California voters validated Senator Cannella's support by overwhelmingly rejecting Proposition 6.

### **TAMC Board Authorizes On-Call Roundabout Design Peer Review Contract**

The TAMC Board approve and authorized the execution of a two-year contract to provide On-Call Roundabout Design Peer Review engineering services for the Highway 156/Castroville Boulevard Interchange project, the Highway 68 Scenic Highway Improvement project, and other highway roundabout projects as needed in Monterey County.

The Highway 156/Castroville Boulevard Interchange and the Highway 68 Scenic Highway project are Measure X funded projects that involve roundabout design alternates and engineering design by Caltrans. The authorization of the contract funded through Measure X revenues will allow TAMC to efficiently develop and optimize roundabout alternatives in cooperation with Caltrans designers.