

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

June 26, 2019

Public Advocates Support for Two Potential Safety Projects

The public engagement process was in full force at the TAMC Board of Directors meeting as residents and business leaders from North County to South County attended the meeting to express their support for two potential safety improvement projects, the “Pajaro to Prunedale Corridor Study” and the “US 101 Improvements South of Salinas.” Each person who spoke urged the Board to do whatever they could to move these potential safety improvement projects forward. Following the comments that were at times personal from both community members and Board members, the Board of Directors made the following decisions:



After determining that the Pajaro to Prunedale – G12 Corridor Study is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, the Board approved the study as being complete and authorized staff to support the County of Monterey on implementing the next stages of project development and grant funding for the G-12 corridor which currently experiences a traffic volume of 17,975-26,270 vehicles a day traveling between Pajaro and Prunedale.

The purpose of the study is to identify improvements that will provide safer access to all modes of travel along this 10-mile corridor where 832 collisions and 11 fatalities have occurred during the last five years. The study evaluated current and future travel patterns between Highway 101/San Miguel Canyon Road Interchange in Prunedale, Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange, to the end of Main Street in Pajaro. The study also explored the feasibility of affordable mid-term and long-term operational and safety improvements in context with other planned regional improvements, while retaining the unique character of the Elkhorn Slough. More information about the project can be found here: <https://www.tamcmonterey.org/g12-corridor-study/>



The TAMC Board of Directors approval to release a Request for Proposal for the Measure X US 101 Safety Improvements South of Salinas Scope of Work. The Transportation Agency anticipates having a consultant onboard in the fall to develop and review various safety improvements concepts along the highway between Salinas and Chualar.

Using a robust public outreach process, data gathering and traffic modeling, the key aspects of

the work will include:

1. Review of existing conditions and traffic volumes,
2. Develop concepts and planning level cost estimates,
3. Model changes in traffic patterns for multiple viable concepts,
4. Create travel simulations to evaluate concepts; and
5. Produce draft and final Concept Analysis document.

The community outreach process will include a community advisory group comprised of land owners, growers, shippers, businesses, residents and other interested parties. The grass-roots citizens group, "US 101 South of Salinas Traffic Safety Alliance," will remain to be a key partner in the public outreach and concept development process.

Draft 2019 Public Participation Plan



In keeping with federal regulations, AMBAG with the assistance from TAMC staff has completed a draft 2019 Public Participation Plan for the tri-county region. The plan is a comprehensive document which guides TAMC, Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission, San Benito Council of Governments, as well as, local jurisdictions in the public participation process and how it will be structured for federally-funded transportation plans, programs and projects in the region.

With authorization from the Board, the Draft 2019 Public Participation Plan will be released for a 45-day public comment review period. The document can be reviewed on the AMBAG website at this link: <https://ambag.org/programs-services/planning/public-participation-plan>.



Safe Routes to School Program Will Be Implemented in Schools & Community Parks

Thanks to an \$2.1 million award from the Active Transportation Program Cycle 4 grant program, combined with \$65,000 of Measure X revenues, and an in-kind match of \$17,224 from the Monterey County Health the Department, the Transportation Agency and Health Department will begin implementing traffic gardens and other safe routes to school educational programming at 11 schools and 2 community parks in the Salinas Valley, Monterey Peninsula and North Monterey County communities.

Traffic gardens vary in size and form, but typically are miniature, child-scale roads that provide a safe space for children to improve their bicycling skills and learn how to safely ride in traffic and share road space with other users. The project is expected to kick-off in September and conclude in Summer 2022.