

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

December 5, 2007 Meeting

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON THE
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN**

The Transportation Agency wants to know your thoughts on the Investment Plan for a half-cent sales tax or transportation on the November 2008 ballot by attending one of the following community meetings:

Tuesday, January 29, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm
Salinas Community Center, Santa Lucia Room
940 Main St,
Salinas

Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm
North Monterey County
Location to be determined

Thursday, January 31, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm
Lions Hall
Acacia St. & Park St.,
Soledad

February 12 or 13, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm
Seaside
Location to be determined

**BOARD APPROVES PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County approved a balanced program of projects to be funded by a 25-year, ½ cent sales tax slated for the November 2008 ballot. This Transportation Investment Plan will guide the expenditure of more than \$980 Million dollars in a proposed transportation sales tax over the next 25 years. The

transportation sales tax, when combined with the developer fees and state and federal funds, will fund a \$1.8 billion program of safety, maintenance, congestion relief and alternative transportation projects in Monterey County. At the meeting, Peter Shellenberger of Public Financial Management confirmed that the plan is a strong plan with prudent financial assumptions.

Negotiated over several months, the Investment Plan provides a balance between a variety of much-needed transportation improvements throughout the County. Projects recommended for the sales tax include: regional safety and congestion relief road projects on US 101, Highway 156 and Highway 68. Eligible for the 20% transit set-aside are bus rapid transit projects connecting Pacific Grove and Monterey to Seaside and Marina, increased bus service between Monterey and Salinas, wheelchair-accessible taxi cabs, and improved transit for the elderly and disabled. Candidates for the 3% funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements are a bicycle path between Carmel High School and across the Carmel River Bridge, a bridge over the Salinas River between South Salinas and Spreckels, and improvements along the Coast to add to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. While rail service is no longer included in the plan, Transportation Agency and Monterey-Salinas Transit staff have reached agreement to assure that Caltrain operations will be funded out of existing transit monies.

Transportation Agency staff will prepare the detailed investment plan language for Board adoption in early 2008. The investment plan must be adopted by the County Board of Supervisors as well as a majority of the cities representing the majority of the population before it can be placed on the November 2008 ballot.

STATE FUNDING REQUESTED FOR MONTEREY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is requesting \$33.9 million in state funding for the following transportation projects in Monterey County:

- US 101 – Airport Boulevard interchange improvements – final construction costs
- US 101 – San Juan Road interchange at the Red Barn – right-of-way funds
- SR 156—Widening – design monies
- Hwy 68—widening near Community Hospital to Highway 1 – construction funds
- Spreckels Blvd/Portola Dr bike path and bridge – construction funds

These state funds do not pay the full cost of all these projects; however, they will allow the projects to progress to advanced stages including construction. State Transportation Improvement Program funding is subject to the year-to-year State budget decisions and therefore is unreliable; consequently finding a stable source of local funding is still needed to support the future of transportation in this county.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2008 TERMS

A new slate of officers were elected by the Transportation Agency Board of Directors for the 2008 calendar year as follows:

Chair: Dave Potter, 5th District Supervisor

1st Vice Chair: Frank Sollecito, Monterey City Council Member

2nd Vice Chair: Lou Calcagno, 2nd District Supervisor

MONTEREY TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDING FOR MONTEREY HOTEL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Transportation Agency awarded \$200,000 in state funding to be use in constructing a pedestrian enhancement/safety and streetscape project at the corner of Calle Principal and Madison Street. As part of the Monterey Hotel expansion transit-oriented development project, the Calle Principal Plaza project will increase safety and streetscape aesthetics.

CITY OF SOLEDAD AWARDED STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency allocated \$231,327 in Regional Surface Transportation Program fair share funding to the City of Soledad this Wednesday for citywide street construction and resurfacing. These state funds are available at the discretion of the local jurisdiction for their chosen projects upon approval by the Board.

2008 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Unless otherwise noticed, all meetings held at the
Agricultural Commission,
1428 Abbott Street, Salinas
9:00 a.m.

Month	Date	Day
January	23	Wednesday
February	27	Wednesday
March	26	Wednesday
April	23	Wednesday
May	28	Wednesday
June	25	Wednesday
<i>No July TAMC Board meeting</i>		
August	27	Wednesday
September	24	Wednesday
October	22	Wednesday
No November TAMC Board meeting due to <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
December	3	Wednesday