

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

www.tamcmonterey.org

HIGHLIGHTS

October 24, 2007 Meeting

PRELIMINARY LIST OF PROJECTS SELECTED FOR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

The Transportation Agency has been working with member jurisdictions and community groups to refine the investment plan for the Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. A variety of different projects throughout Monterey County are being recommended for funding with a proposed 25-year half-cent transportation sales tax, which will be placed on the November 2008 ballot. The projects on the draft funding list 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.

The transportation sales tax, when combined with the developer fees and state and federal funds, will assist in funding \$1.5 billion worth of safety, maintenance, congestion relief and alternative transportation projects in Monterey County. A preferred scenario slated for approval at the Transportation Agency Board's December 5, 2007 meeting.

STATE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BICYCLE PROJECT FUNDING AND FUNDING FOR BICYCLE RACKS AND LOCKERS

The California Department of Transportation is currently accepting applications for the Bicycle Transportation Account Program. The Bicycle Transportation Account Program funds city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. In order to be eligible for these funds a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan that complies with state law. The plan must be reviewed and approved by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County. Agencies applying for the funds must have a Bicycle Transportation Plan adopted January 1, 2003 or later. Projects that were not identified in the Transportation Agency's 2005 Genera

Bikeways Plan or approved in their own bicycle transportation plan will not be eligible for the funds. Applications are due to the local Caltrans District Local Assistance Office by Monday, December 3, 2007.

The Transportation Agency is also accepting applications from businesses, public agencies, and non-profit organizations for bicycle racks and lockers through the Bicycle Protection Program. The Bicycle Protection Program aims to encourage bicycle use, and reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by providing free bicycle racks and lockers to the public. The Transportation Agency covers the purchasing price of the lockers and racks including tax, shipping and handling. The applicants only need to install the equipment and monitor its use.

Through the program, the Transportation Agency previously provided 68 bicycle racks and 30 lockers to businesses, public agencies and non-profit organizations throughout Monterey County. With new funding awarded to the Transportation Agency from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District in the total amount of \$45,837, this program has been extended. Applications already approved by the Transportation Agency can expect to receive the bicycle racks and lockers by early December.

MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SOUTH COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE

Two express round trips will soon be added to the existing weekday operations of Line 23 between Salinas and King City with the award of \$50,932 in Intercity Bus Program funds from the Federal Transit Administration. Operating costs will be matched with farebox revenues and \$124,604 in Transportation Development Act funds from the County of Monterey, and the Cities of Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King. Continued Sunday service on Line 23 will also be funded with this award. MST has also been awarded \$25,000 in Federal Transit Administration grant funds for the Line 23 Marketing Outreach Plan.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SUPPORTS HIGHWAY 1 SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION

To ensure that scenic views are preserved, local jurisdictions along Highway 1 from Carmel to Marina are working together to secure designation of the Highway 1 corridor as a scenic highway. The designation also makes the highway eligible to compete for federal funds that are reserved for scenic highways to improve the quality of life along the highway through bicycle, pedestrian, and other environmental friendly projects. The

City of Marina has taken the lead in this effort and is coordinating via the Fort Ord Reuse Authority. More information regarding the scenic highway program can be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/scpr.htm>.

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA AWARDED
STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency allocated the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea \$71,812 in state funding this Wednesday for the reconstruction of Mission Street between Third and Fourth Avenue. This money will also fund completion of sidewalks on the west side of the street as well as undergrounding of overhead utility wires.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS:
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Is there an individual, group, business or program in Monterey County that has significantly contributed to the way we get around in 2007? Do they deserve to be recognized? Nominate this individual, group, business or program for a Transportation Excellence Award. The Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees. Nomination forms can be found at: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/excelaward/index.html> and are due by December 7, 2007. The awards ceremony will take place before the regular January 23, 2008 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.