

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

January 23, 2008 Meeting

TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE CELEBRATED

The Transportation Agency for Monterey honored outstanding Monterey County individuals, projects, and programs in the field of transportation at the sixth annual Transportation Agency for Monterey County Excellence Awards Ceremony. Those receiving awards have shown exceptional hard work and dedication in improving transportation in Monterey County.

Highlights of the award recipients are:

Special Recognition

- ❖ **District 17 Congressman, Sam Farr:** Congressman Farr successfully gathered \$10.2 million for projects in Monterey County in H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2008.
 - US 101 Prunedale Improvement Project: \$9,000,000
 - Airport Boulevard US 101 Interchange: \$490,000
 - Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail: \$490,000
 - Monterey-Salinas Transit \$196,000

Individuals

- **Lance Atencio, General Manager, MV Transportation:** Mr. Atencio has successfully increased the on-time performance and over-all reliability of the RIDES bus program for the elderly and disabled. Mr. Atencio's openness and willingness to respond to stakeholder feedback has increased the value of this program to community members and has also increased confidence in the program.
- **Tom Carvey, Executive Director, Common Ground:** As the host of the "Your Town" radio and television show, Mr. Carvey has helped increase public awareness of transportation issues by holding bi-weekly transportation interviews, aired on Access Monterey Peninsula Channel 24 and KNRV AM1240.
- **Michele Allen, Traffic Reporter, KSBW-TV:** Ms. Allen's daily traffic reports provide essential information for viewers that save them time, energy, and money.

Groups

- **Highway 156 Safety Improvements Task Force:** Called together by Supervisor Lou Calcagno, this team of Caltrans, Monterey County, TAMC, and community

representatives worked together to successfully recommend short-term safety improvements to the Highway 156 corridor. Vital projects such as the new no-passing zone, will improve the lives of thousands of commuters, visitors and truckers that travel Highway 156 everyday.

- **Monterey County Health Department, Monterey County Bike Week Sponsors:** The Health Dept. has been an extraordinary support to Monterey County Bike Week. The department has worked closely with the Transportation Agency in promoting bicycling as a healthy transportation alternative as well as providing monetary support towards to ensure that students were fed a good breakfast on bike to school day.

Projects

- **South Sanborn Road Improvement Project:** This project has reduced congestion on Sanborn Road, a heavily traveled arterial, by adding a third lane in the northbound and southbound lanes. The project also provides smoother, quieter, more comfortable riding pavement, improved traffic signal operation, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping features. The City of Salinas worked in close coordination with local businesses to minimize construction impacts in this critical agricultural distribution corridor.
- **Marina Transit Exchange: Monterey-Salinas Transit:** This state-of-the-art facility is located in the heart of what will soon become the largest community in coastal Monterey County. MST designed this facility in coordination with the City of Marina to meet the future demand for transit as thousands of new homes are constructed in North and South Marina.

See the attached list for a full description of the awards recipients. The full awards list may also be accessed at:

http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/excelaward/07_honorees.html.

BOARD APPROVES DRAFT TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County approved the draft text for the Investment Plan 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 from 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.

The Investment Plan provides a balance among 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.

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.

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

The Transportation Agency wants to know your thoughts on the newly-adopted draft transportation Investment Plan. The \$1.8 billion plan will guide investment of a half-cent transportation sales tax to be placed on the November 2008 ballot. Learn more about the plan and provide your input at one of the following community meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Salinas Community Center, Santa Lucia Room
940 N. Main Street, Salinas

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Castroville Water District Conference Room
11499 Geil Street, Castroville

Thursday, Jan. 31, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Lions Hall
Acacia Street & Park Street, Soledad

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Seaside Community Center
220 Coe Avenue, Seaside

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE PROGRAM
APPROVED FOR CIRCULATION**

Developers will be asked to pay for the traffic it adds to the regional transportation system if Monterey County and its cities adopt the Transportation Agency proposed Regional Development Traffic Impact Fee Program. Transportation Agency Board Members adopted the draft Nexus Study for a Regional Development Impact Fee, including a list of projects and fee schedule.

The Transportation Agency Board indicated a general acceptance of the project list and the three-zone benefit scenario. Under this scenario, the draft regional development impact fee schedule would assess \$3,847 per dwelling unit to North County-Greater Salinas, \$3,154 per dwelling unit to Monterey Peninsula-South Coast, and \$4,608 per dwelling unit to the South County.

The developer fee program is estimated to generate \$328 million in revenues for road and transit improvements. When combined with a transportation sales tax and state and federal funds, the fee will assist in fully funding a \$1.8 billion multi-modal program of much needed transportation projects in Monterey County. The current schedule for implementing the draft regional development impact fee program is to seek approval by the cities and County beginning in Spring 2008.

STATE FUNDING REQUESTED FOR MONTEREY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County authorized the request of \$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

With the exception of the US 101 – Airport Boulevard project, 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. Action by the California Transportation Commission on these requests is expected this spring.

MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY SCENIC TRAIL MASTER PLAN APPROVED

Bicyclists may see improvements to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic trail in the near future with the Transportation Agency's approval of the project Master Plan this Wednesday. Short-term projects include:

- Improving existing trail segments in Seaside and Monterey,
- Completing the Sand City gap, completion of the trail in the new Fort Ord Dunes State Park and between the park and Marina State Beach; and
- Completing Moss Landing area projects (including a new bridge across Elkhorn Slough).

Mid- to long-term improvements include:

- Constructing a trail from the current terminus north of Marina to the south edge of Moss Landing; and,
- Completion of a paved bike path along the coast and a bridge or bridge improvements across the Pajaro River.

Projects will be implemented as funding is determined.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY AWARDS FUNDS TO MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT AND MONTEREY COUNTY

The Transportation Agency awarded over \$3 million in state infrastructure bond funds to Monterey-Salinas Transit and Monterey County this Wednesday for local transit service and South Monterey County transit services. Monterey Salinas Transit intends to use a portion of these funds to expedite construction of the Frank J. Lichtanski Monterey Bay Operations Center project.