

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

December 2, 2009 Meeting

STATE BUDGET REMOVES FUNDING FOR MONTEREY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Two County of Monterey Projects and one City of Monterey project will be impacted by a decision made by the California Transportation Commission to only fund construction for the 2009/10 fiscal year. With limited state transportation funds available in the coming year, the California Transportation Commission adopted this plan, which will not fund pre-construction phases in 2009/10. The Route 68 widening near Community Hospital is programmed for right-of-way funding in 2009/10. Staff is recommending waiting to reprogram this project until the 2012 to determine if funds will be available to program final engineering and construction funds for the project. Highway 1 Operational Improvements near Carmel and the Highway 68 Corral de Tierra Intersection projects have pre-construction phases programmed for funding in 2009/10. Transportation Agency approved the advance of \$83,000 of regional impact fees and \$437,000 of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to cover the pre-construction phases of this project to fill the gap caused by the suspension of state funds for these projects.

Monterey County also has two major projects that will incur significant cost increases if they are delayed due to the state budget shortfall. The Prunedale Improvement Project has \$187 million of state funds programmed for construction in 2010/11. A one year delay would increase the project's estimated cost by \$8 million, and postpone sorely needed safety improvements. Because of the project's high cost, the Prunedale Improvement Project will likely be targeted for delay. Another project that could be delayed is the US 101/San Juan Road Interchange project. This high incident area is a choke point for interregional travel along US 101 for goods movement, commuters and visitors. The project proposes to remove three at-grade intersections (Dunbarton Road, San Juan Road and Cole Road) and construct one interchange near the Red Barn. The new interchange will help improve safety and reduce the congestion along this heavily traveled stretch of US 101. Moving this project from the 2012/13 year will put state Proposition 1B bond funds at risk. Staff feels because of the state bond funding, the US 101-San Juan Road Interchange project is less likely to be targeted for delay.

Transportation Agency staff has worked with the lead agencies of all the projects currently programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program to identify project phases that can be delayed while minimizing the negative impact to the projects.

TRANSIT NEEDS INCREASING IN MONTEREY COUNTY

The Transportation Agency heard comments from the public during a public hearing for Unmet Transit Needs in Monterey County. California state law requires the Transportation Agency to make a finding on Unmet Transit Needs prior to allocating Local Transportation Funds to any jurisdiction for local planning or street and road purposes.

Comments were heard from residents of the Cachagua area in Carmel Valley regarding transportation needs and possible transit service to that area specifically needed for residents not able to drive or own a personal vehicle, including students. Other comments included transit access for Firestone Business Park and Abbott Street employment outside of Salinas via MST Line 23, and the implementation of Monterey-Salinas Transit service for the Aromas area of North Monterey County.

Staff will review the comments provided at the public hearings or in writing and analyze them according to the unmet transit needs criteria, as adopted by the Board of Directors. An unmet transit need is a request for transportation that is not currently provided by the existing transit system, and which is “reasonable to meet” by analyzing several factors, including the ability to meet the minimum farebox recovery ratio, funding availability and service feasibility.

MONTEREY COUNTY RECIEVES FUNDS FOR 511 TRAVELER INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Transportation Agency recently received \$260,000 in state funds, which will fund a 511 Traveler Information System for the Monterey Bay Area. The voice recognition phone system and website components of the system are dedicated to provide a wide range of travel information, from vehicle travel times on major Highways such as Highway 101 or 1, to transit schedules, rideshare and carpooling information and weather and tourism information. By making travel information easy to access, it is expected that people can make more informed choices about when to travel, what type of transportation to use, and what route to take. The Transportation Agency will work in coordination with the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission and the California Department of Transportation to develop a system similar to the 511 Traveler Information System in the San Francisco Bay Area.

A Monterey Bay Area 511 System will be an effective strategy for simultaneously addressing numerous transportation challenges in both the short and long-term, at a low cost, and with significant benefits for multiple modes. The system would be designed to maximize the opportunities to build upon existing local transportation resources.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2010 TERMS

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers for the 2010 calendar year as follows:

Chair: Lou Calcagno, 2nd District Supervisor
1st Vice Chair: Steve Villegas, Salinas City Council Member
2nd Vice Chair: Simon Salinas, 3rd District Supervisor
Past Chair: Frank Sollecito, Monterey City Council Member
City Representative: Maria Orozco, Gonzales City Mayor
County Representative: Jane Parker, 4th District Supervisor

AGENCY RECEIVES FUNDS TO SUPPORT BICYCLING

A new county bicycle and pedestrian plan will soon be underway funded by a grant of \$63,725 in Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant program funds from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. The Transportation Agency also received \$22,184 to purchase bicycle racks and lockers to be distributed to employers and businesses in Monterey County.

The AB 2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant program, administered by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, provides funding for projects that will improve air quality by reducing motor vehicle emissions. Since the AB 2766 grant program began 18 years ago, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District has awarded \$25.3 million grants to 449 projects in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, providing an estimated \$25.3 million in emissions reductions.

2010 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Unless otherwise noticed, all meetings held at the Salinas Community Center (Santa Lucia Conference Room)

940 N. Main Street, Salinas
or
Agricultural Center Conference Room
1428 Abbott Street, Salinas
9:00 a.m.

(The exact location of the meeting will be noted on each agenda)

Month	Date	Day
January	27	Wednesday
February	24	Wednesday
March	24	Wednesday
April	28	Wednesday
May	26	Wednesday
June	23	Wednesday
<i>No July TAMC Board meeting</i>		
August	25	Wednesday
September	22	Wednesday
October	27	Wednesday
<i>No November TAMC Board meeting due to Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
December	1	Wednesday