

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

August 25, 2010 Meeting

101-PRUNDALE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
RECIEVES CONSTRUCTION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency celebrated The California Transportation Commission's approval of \$91,310,000 for the construction of The Prunedale Improvement Project which will include 3 new interchanges / overpasses along US 101 through North Monterey County at: Russell/Espinosa, Blackie/Reese, and Crazy Horse Canyon/Echo Valley Roads. Long-term supporters of the project and original Prunedale Bypass Committee members Vee Thomas and Del Matt spoke of their appreciation for Caltrans' and the Transportation Agency's efforts to push this project forward and the countless accidents and lives that will be saved by the improvements to this corridor.

Construction is scheduled to begin April 2011, however funding for construction is contingent upon the adoption of the state budget. Completion of the project is schedule for 2015.

BEACH RANGE ROAD, BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH:
COMING SOON

A new bicycle and pedestrian path connecting Monterey Peninsula cities will soon be constructed. This major project in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan will improve the existing four-mile paved Beach Range Road into a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path. Beach Range Road is a former military access road within the Fort Ord Dunes State Park that runs parallel to and west of the existing recreation trail. Beach Range Road will offer users a greater separation from traffic on Highway 1 and provide connection to the future Monterey Branch Line station at 8th Street. Areas of interest along the path will be highlighted with interpretive panels, and picnic tables and bicycle racks will be installed.

After road improvements are made, users will see six-foot bike lanes, and six feet pedestrian paths in areas where the width of the road is 20 feet. Bicyclists and pedestrians will share the facility in areas where the road width is only twelve feet.

Requests for bids are anticipated for early September and the selected contractor will be brought for approval by the Transportation Agency at the October 27, 2010 board meeting. The 25-day construction project may begin as early as November 2010.

MONTEREY COUNTY TAXI AUTHORITY **ESTABLISHED**

Residents and visitors to the Monterey Peninsula may soon find it easier to take a taxi across the Monterey Peninsula and County with the creation of the Regional Taxi Authority in Monterey County. The purpose of the Taxi Authority is to consolidate the taxi operator licensing and inspection functions in one location with standardized rules with the ultimate goal of ensuring consistent, safe, and high quality taxi service. The city police chiefs, the Monterey County hospitality industry, and social service organizations representing the elderly and persons with disabilities have requested that a regional authority be formed to streamline taxi licensing, improve enforcement of taxi regulations, reduce confusion for taxi customers caused by inconsistent regulations and permit restrictions across contiguous city boundaries, ensure quality service for taxi customers, and reduce costs to local governments associated with taxi permitting tasks.

At the recommendation of the cities, a separate Joint Powers Agency has been established to oversee the regional taxi program including the Cities of Carmel-by-the Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City and Seaside, in addition to the Monterey Peninsula Airport District. The County of Monterey is expected to approve the agreement in September in order to improve taxi regulation for the County's unincorporated communities. The City of Marina did not vote to join the Authority, but is most likely reconsidering participation in the Authority in September.

NEW ON-CALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING **CONSULTANTS LIST**

A new list of well-qualified on-call project management & engineering consultants is now available to all Transportation Agency member agencies through April 2012. The follow firms were evaluated on organization, staffing, related experience, management approach, local knowledge, and reference and are qualified for all types of transportation engineering and project management work.

- Harris & Associates
- Hatch Mott MacDonald
- Kimley-Horn and Associates

- Mark Thomas
- RBF Consulting
- URS
- Whitson Engineers
- Wood Rodgers

To utilize one of the consultants, contact Hank Myers with the Transportation Agency at: (831) 775-4412 or by email at: hank@tamcmonterey.org.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE DECREASES

As part of the Joint Powers Agreement that established the Regional Development Impact Fee Program, the Transportation Agency is required to adjust the regional fees for inflation based on the increase or decrease in the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index for the San Francisco Bay Area for the 12-month period ending December 31 of the preceding calendar year.

As of December 31, 2009, the Construction Cost Index for the San Francisco Bay Area decreased 0.6%. As a result, the Transportation Agency voted to reduce regional traffic impact fees by \$2 per trip, which corresponds to a roughly \$20 decrease in regional fees for a Residential Single Family Dwelling Unit.

CITY OF GREENFIELD RECEIVES STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency allocated more than \$290,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Funds to the City of Greenfield for city sidewalk surface grinding, a citywide signage study, traffic engineering and mid-block crosswalk survey, the El Camino Real Street Improvement Project and a citywide speed study. Projects eligible for Regional Surface Transportation Program funding include local street and roadway rehabilitation, local match for federal transportation funds, bike lanes, pedestrian facilities, public transit capital, and signal coordination.