

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

February 24, 2010 Meeting

NEW FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS

The United States Congress is considering a second round of federal economic stimulus funding, which if enacted, could require local agencies to bring projects under contract by the end of this May. To meet this tight deadline given stringent federal requirements, the Transportation Agency has approved a draft project list based on an estimated funding amount of \$17.2 million.

Under the scenario adopted by the Agency's Board of Directors, up to \$10.3 million would be programmed for right-of-way acquisition for the US 101 – San Juan Road Interchange project. This project, slated to start construction in 2012, will replace four at-grade intersections (Dunbarton Road, San Juan Road, Cole Road and the Red Barn driveway) and direct all travel through a new interchange just north of the Red Barn. The new interchange will improve safety and reduce the congestion along this heavily traveled stretch of Highway 101 that serves as a primary travel route for visitors and agricultural goods.

The funding program would also direct \$6.9 million to local projects throughout the county, of which \$744,500 must be programmed to bicycle, pedestrian and other "enhancement" projects.

The funding estimates are based on the legislation approved by the House of Representatives, but are purely speculative at this point. No funding will be allocated unless the U.S. Senate approves and the President signs a new jobs bill.

A list of projects throughout the county will be brought to the Transportation Agency Board at a subsequent meeting for ratification, should the infrastructure funding be approved.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

The Transportation Agency is seeking a qualified consulting firm to provide professional and technical planning services in preparing a countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Updated every five years, the Monterey County Bikeways Plan requires an upgrade after its last update in 2005.

The purpose of this project is to assure that bikeways within the region are eligible for state Bicycle Transportation Account funding. To create the plan, the Agency will work with local agencies and interested individuals to develop a priority list of bicycle and pedestrian facilities improvements that will position the local cities and the Transportation Agency for grants to finance these projects. The new Plan will include plans for regional pedestrian improvements, an addition from the prior plan.

Consultant proposals will be evaluated using several criteria, including:

- 1) experience and qualification in developing bicycle and pedestrian master plans,
- 2) ability to complete projects by specified deadlines,
- 3) proposed project approach,
- 4) proposal quality,
- 5) references and reputation; and,
- 6) responsiveness to the request for proposals.

Completed proposals may be screened and rated by an evaluation committee composed of representatives from the Transportation Agency and partner agencies. The selected firm is expected to begin work on the plan in July 2010.

HIGHWAY 1/SALINAS ROAD INTERCHANGE **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

The Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange groundbreaking will take place April 23, 2010, 1:30 pm at the Park and Ride Lot on the Southeast Corner of the Intersection of Highway 1 and Salinas Road.

Please join Caltrans and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County to celebrate the beginning of construction on this top priority project. Featured speakers will be:

Caltrans District 5 Director (MC)
Caltrans Director
State Senator
State Assembly Member
Monterey County 2nd District Supervisor
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
California Highway Patrol Commander

Rich Krumholz
Randy Iwasaki
Abel Maldonado
William Monning
Lou Calcagno
Debbie Hale
Bill Perlstein