

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**April 27, 2011 Meeting**

#### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE REDUCTIONS TO BE EVALUATED**

The Transportation Agency Board provided conceptual approval of reduced Regional Development Impact Fees for development in in-fill areas, and directed staff to develop a refined definition of in-fill areas including maps. The Regional Development Impact Fee, approved by the County and all the cities in the county in 2008, provides for new development to pay their share of transportation improvements as mitigation for impacts of traffic generated by their projects. It was determined that development in built up areas promotes more use of alternatives to private automobiles. Fees would be reduced by 10 to 20 percent depending on the type of development.

The evaluation of development fees in in-fill areas was the result of a request by the City of Salinas to reduce fees for development in its downtown in order to assist in attracting new development. The City proposes to also initiate a deferred payment plan for buildings in its downtown and redevelopment areas.

The next steps will be to prepare the infill definition and maps that will designate areas in the region that are eligible for reductions. Once completed, draft maps would be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee and Board for comment and approval.

#### **GOLDEN HELMET AWARDED**

The second annual Golden Helmet Award was presented to Devian Gilbert for his dedication to bicycling for all his transportation needs. The silver Helmet went to Diego Liberczuk for using bicycle transportation for commuting, and encouraging his co-workers to try it as well.

The aim of this award is to highlight the benefits of bicycle commuting and inspire others to utilize alternative transportation modes. The Agency received a total of 69 nomination forms for five different award nominees. The Transportation Agency Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee appointed a subcommittee to review, rank and recommend a winner to the Transportation Agency Board. The winner was determined base on dedication to bicycling as an alternative form of transportation, as well as, frequency and length of travel, history of bicycle commuting, persistence in inclement weather or other materially adverse conditions, adoption of best practice such as courteous riding habits, bicycle advocacy, and inspiration to others.

## **SALINAS ROAD – HIGHWAY 1 INTERCHANGE PROJECT** **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Currently under construction, the Salinas Road Interchange project that started in April 2010 will soon be moving to the next phase of construction and will be implementing a detour to traffic traveling along Highway 1 at Salinas Road. During the next phase of construction, traffic will be detoured along a newly constructed frontage road just west of Highway 1 (from Jensen Road to just north of Salinas Road). The detour will also include a temporary intersection with Salinas Road, almost identical to the existing one, but about 100 yards south. The detour is expected to occur in late May or June. Once implemented the detour is expected to last about eight months. During the first two weeks of the detour any traffic turning at Salinas Road will be redirected on Hwy 129 through Watsonville. Further information regarding the detour will be provided as details become available.

The Salinas Road Interchange project will reduce traffic congestion and improve travel north of Moss Landing near the Santa Cruz County line. It also adds vital safety improvements to a high accident intersection, reduces delays on Highway 1, supports interregional travel between Highways 1 and 101, improves access for local businesses and residents.

The project will construct a new interchange at Salinas Road and Highway 1, north of Moss Landing near the Santa Cruz county line. The new interchange will include construction of a 3-lane structure (Salinas Road) over Highway 1 with 3 diamond-type ramps and one southbound loop on-ramp. A frontage road will be constructed from Jensen Road to Salinas Road west of Highway 1 and connect with the southbound off-ramp. A frontage road will also be constructed east of Highway 1 to provide access to local businesses.

## **MONTEREY COUNTY FREIGHT RAIL STUDY**

The Transportation Agency elected to provide conceptual support for a freight rail facility feasibility study with the intention of developing an agricultural truck to rail intermodal facility in the Salinas Valley. Monterey County is currently collaborating with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and agricultural industry stakeholders to apply for a grant to complete this feasibility study for the facility.

The truck to rail facility is intended to expand the options for transporting goods from the Salinas Valley to domestic markets and provide potential cost savings. In addition, with over 2,500 refrigerated trucks per day leaving the Salinas Valley, there is a significant impact on roadways, air quality and quality of life of the residents of Monterey County. The truck to rail facility and operation could significantly reduce these impacts.

## **NEW BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL MEMBER**

The Transportation Agency approved Tim Meehan to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee representing the City of Monterey. Mr. Meehan commutes frequently on his bicycle, often times with his children riding in a trailer at the back of the bicycle. He served on the City of Monterey's ad-hoc Bicycle Committee in 2009 and was instrumental in the development of the City's Bicycle Transportation Plan. Mr. Meehan is passionate about bicycling and helping to shape the future direction for bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the County.