

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

February 23, 2011 Meeting

BOARD APPORTIONS LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency apportioned more than \$12,000,000 in Local Transportation Funds for the 2011/12 fiscal year. The Transportation Agency is first required to estimate and apportion Local Transportation Funds to the Agency and Monterey County jurisdictions based on population. Subsequently, this spring, public agencies will apply to the Transportation Agency for allocations to offset transportation program expenses in the succeeding fiscal year. The Agency also apportions 2% of new Local Transportation Funds for countywide bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Board approved the expenditure plan for the bicycle and pedestrian program at its October, 2009 meeting, which allocates funding to projects through the 2011-12 Fiscal Year.

Under the state statute Local Transportation Funds are for transit use first after allocating the bicycle and pedestrian money. Monterey County cities allocate all of their local funds to support Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST). The Agency also apportions funds to MST based on the percentage of the County population residing within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of MST fixed routes agreed-upon between the County and MST.

The remaining County fund apportionment is allocated to ongoing County transit obligations and any reasonable unmet transit needs identified countywide by the Agency during its annual public hearing process. The Transportation Development Act allows the County of Monterey to claim Local Transportation Funds remaining after public transit allocations are approved for streets and roads projects or other eligible purposes. Allocations, however, will be based on the last year MST budget, which will include full implementation of past unmet transit needs findings that resulted in the Agency allocating almost all of the County fund apportionment to MST operations. Because of the rising cost of operating transit services, particularly diesel fuel, it is anticipated that little, if any funds will be available for roads purposes.

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MARINA APPLIES FOR BIKE LANE FUNDS ON CARDOZA AND CARMEL AVENUES

The Transportation Agency voted to support the City of Marina's Bicycle Transportation Account grant application to install bike lanes on Cardoza and Carmel Avenues. The Bicycle Transportation Account Program funds city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.

If awarded with funding, the City of Marina hopes to construct Class II bike lanes on Cardoza Avenue from Reservation Road to end and Carmel Avenue from Del Monte Boulevard to Salinas Avenue, along with other related improvements. This project will act as an important link between central Marina neighborhoods and Reservation Road, which connects with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail; and the City of Salinas with the bicycle route on Blanco Road.

To be eligible for the Bicycle Transportation Account funds, a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan by January 1, 2006 or later. The County of Monterey last revised its Bicycle Plan in 2008, and the City of Marina adopted the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2010.