

## **TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**

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### ***HIGHLIGHT***

**May 25, 2011 Meeting**

#### **MONTEREY SALINAS TRANSIT RECIEVES LOAN FOR OPERATIONS**

The Transportation Agency Board approved the use of regional transportation funds for a loan of \$1,000,000 to Monterey-Salinas Transit to funds its payroll obligations over the next month. The Federal Transit Administration has withheld federal operating fund payments expected by MST pending completion of a civil rights review of the transit agency's operations and procedures. MST will not have sufficient funds to cover its payroll obligations over the next month as a result of this federal action. They expect the federal review process to find that it is in full compliance with federal civil rights requirements in the next few weeks, at which point the short-term loan will be repaid over the next month.

#### **MONTEREY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The Transportation Agency received a presentation and discussed transportation funding strategies, projects, and the role of the transportation agency and other sister agencies in Monterey County. A list of priority projects will be determined at the June 22, 2011 meeting.

#### **PRUNEDALE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING**

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Prunedale Improvement Project is scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2011 at 10:30 AM in the parking lot at the intersection of Russell Rd. and Harrison Rd. in Salinas.

The Prunedale Improvement Project will construct three new interchanges / overpasses along US 101 through North Monterey County at: Russell/Espinosa, Blackie/Reese, and Crazy Horse Canyon/Echo Valley Roads. The project will also close the remaining gaps in the concrete median barrier from Crazy Horse Canyon to Russell/Espinoza, resulting in one continuous barrier. Construction for this project began early 2011 and will be completed in 2015.

#### **COMMUTER RAIL TO SALINAS MOVES FORWARD**

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The Transportation Agency approved the contract with Parsons Transportation Group to continue work on the Commuter Rail Extension to Monterey County project. This

contract will focus on updating the state and federal Environmental Documents for the Pajaro Valley/ Watsonville Station, Castroville Station, Salinas Layover Facility, and Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center. Parson will also provide design coordination, assistance to the right-of-way team, and institutional support for the project. Headed by Bob Scales, the Parsons team has completed the project definition, conceptual design, environmental review and alternatives analysis phase and begun the preliminary engineering phase of the project.

The rail service will extend commuter rail service from the bay area to Pajaro/Watsonville, Castroville, and Salinas, providing an alternative to driving on congested Highway 101. To this point, conceptual design, state and the federally required alternatives analysis are complete. Next steps for this project will be to complete the federal environmental review, finalize negotiations for operations, and submit the Federal Small Starts application for federal transit funds.

**NEW BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL MEMBER**

The Transportation Agency approved Frank Henderson to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee representing the Fourth District of Monterey County. Mr. Henderson is a Tutorial Services Coordinator at Hartnell College and the 2010 Golden Helmet Award winner. He has been a League of American Bicyclists Instructor for the past six years and generously offered his time to teach local residents on bicycle safety and safe riding techniques. Mr. Henderson is interested in being an agent of change, making positive changes to the bicycle and walking infrastructures in the County.