

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**October 26, 2011 Meeting**

#### **MONTEREY COUNTY TAXI AUTHORITY:** **SUCCESSFUL**

The Transportation Agency received an update on the Regional Taxi Authority in Monterey County, which was created in August 2010. 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 by streamlining taxi licensing, improving enforcement of taxi regulations, reducing confusion for taxi customers caused by inconsistent regulations and permit restrictions across contiguous city boundaries, ensuring quality service for taxi customers, and reducing costs to local governments associated with taxi permitting tasks.

Major accomplishments by Monterey-Salinas Transit staff and its Board of Directors through the Regional Taxi Authority in the past year include: forming a Joint Powers Agency, creating a Technical Advisory Committee, receiving a contract for administrative licensing and inspection services to MST, securing authorization from the Dept. of Justice to conduct criminal background checks, setting up a new website – [www.mryrta.org](http://www.mryrta.org).

A number of a regulations and policies were also adopted:

- Interim Permit Fee Schedules for Taxi Companies, Drivers and Vehicles
- Ordinance for the Uniform Regulation of Taxicabs
- RTA Taxi Administration Program Regulations
- Taxi Senior Discount Voucher Program
- Region-wide taxi fare structure
- Taxicab fines/penalties structure for operating without RTA permits
- \$1 million minimum insurance requirements
- RTA Equipment, Safety, Security, and Operational Policy
- FY 2012 budget

Among these other accomplishments, over 30 new driver permits were issued in the past year as well as four new taxi company permits.

#### **MONTEREY COUNTY FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR** **STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

The Transportation Agency provided input on the draft list of projects for State Transportation Improvement funding. The target amount for the next five years starting in 2012 is \$46,860,000. This funding is made available from state and federal gasoline taxes and is allocated by the California Transportation Commission, a board appointed by the Governor and the state legislature. This money will primarily be available in the fourth and fifth years of the program.

Projects on the list for funding include: the Highway 156 Widening, US 101 San Juan Road Project, the US 101 South County Frontage Road Projects, Commuter Rail to Salinas, the Highway 1 Climbing Lane from Rio Road to Carmel Valley Road in Carmel, and Castroville Bike/Pedestrian Railroad Crossing. These projects are consistent with the list of priority regional transportation projects adopted by the Board of Directors in August 2012.

The 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program will be up for adoption by the Transportation Agency Board adoption at the December 7, 2011 meeting. The California Transportation Commission is scheduled to adopt the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program on March 28, 2012.

### **TRANSPORTATION AGENCY LEARNS ABOUT AMBAG EFFORTS TO IMPROVE REGIONAL COORDINATION**

The Transportation Agency received a report from its Board Chair Mayor Maria Orozco of Gonzales on the joint meeting of the Executive Committee meetings of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and the San Benito Council of Governments. The joint meeting identified several areas of improvement for the Association, including: communication between city councils, public agencies and staff and collaboration through ex-officio board members and sharing services, consulting, reports, retreats, and training.

The Transportation Agency also reviewed the actions of the Salinas City Council, which included a request for AMBAG to develop a plan for improving performance and after one year conduct a survey of its member agencies and report back to the City of Salinas. At its October 12 Board of Directors meeting, AMBAG voted to:

- 1) Retain AMBAG in its current form as a regional COG and MPO;
- 2) Direct staff to identify and address any and all performance related issues going forward and report out to the Board of Directors at their January 2012 meeting along with a timeline for addressing the issues;
- 3) Improve coordination and collaboration with its member agencies and the regional transportation agencies within the tri-county area.
- 4) Request agencies work together in order to appropriately fund the Regional Transportation Demand Model and avoid any duplication of transportation planning efforts.

**MONTEREY COUNTY**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN**

Transportation Agency approved the 2011 Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This Plan will guide the design and planning of bicycle and pedestrian facilities improvements, and position the local cities and the Transportation Agency for grants to finance these improvements. The new plan includes a pedestrian component that was not previously included in the Agency's 2005 General Bikeways Plan.

The 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan identifies all existing and proposed bicycle projects and facilities of jurisdictions within the Monterey County region; and satisfies the General Bikeways Plan requirements set by the California Department of Transportation. The plan also identifies a prioritized list of regionally significant bicycle and pedestrian projects listed. This priority list will help guide the allocation of Agency-administered bikeway, trail and sidewalk funds.

The Master Plan will now move to the California Department of Transportation for certification.

**ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS:**  
**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Is there an individual, group, business or program in Monterey County that has significantly contributed to the way we get around in 2011? Do they deserve to be recognized? Nominate this individual, group, business or program for a Transportation Excellence Award. The Transportation Agency would like to encourage and appreciate the efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees. Nomination forms can be found at: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/excelaward/index.html> and are due by December 5, 2011. The awards ceremony will take place before the regular January 25, 2012 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.