



**Transportation Agency
for
Monterey County**

**July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010
WORK PROGRAM**

INTRODUCTION

The annual Transportation Agency for Monterey County work program describes the activities to be accomplished during the fiscal year beginning July 1, and ending June 30. Each activity listed in the work program has a number and a name that identifies the activity, and work activity description includes five parts:

- Objectives
- Previous and ongoing work
- Tasks
- Products

The work program activities have names and numbers, sometimes referred to as “work elements”, and are used in common by:

- a. Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG),
- b. Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC),
- c. Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), and
- d. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit System.

AMBAG prepares an annual Overall Work Program that incorporates all the activities of the above listed agencies, that is then submitted to state and federal funding sources for their review and comment. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County works cooperatively with the above listed agencies, Caltrans, Transportation Agency for Monterey County member agencies, and other local, state, and federal agencies to insure that transportation planning and project implementation is carried out in a cooperative and coordinated manner.

In April 2009, the Board of Directors approved new updated goals and objectives to guide the Agency work plan for 2009-10 and beyond. These new goals and objectives succeed the previous goals and objectives that included the new Transportation Investment Plan, funded by a proposed ½ percent sales tax, placed on the November 2008 ballot. Given that the sales tax did not receive the necessary 2/3 super-majority vote, the new goals and objectives, and subsequently the 2009/10 Work Program do not include implementation of the full Transportation Investment Plan. Rather, the emphasis of the Draft 2009/10 Work Program is on the continuation of current programs, and delivery of those that are funded, and to continue to seek funding from outside sources. The adopted 2009 goals and objectives follow:

Goals and Objectives
Fiscal Years 2009 – 2012

Goal 1 **Aggressively pursue all available Federal and State funding options in order to initiate transportation development projects including those that meet criteria for “shovel ready”, one-time-only stimulus funds.**

Objectives:

- a. Involve Board members in successfully securing Federal Infrastructure Stimulus funds for high priority regional projects that:
 - a. provide a demonstrated benefit to the region’s transportation system;
 - b. meet the criteria of equity among jurisdictions;
 - c. meet project delivery requirements; and
 - d. have a likelihood of meeting the funding time limits.
- b. Support the legislative initiative of Santa Cruz County to allow a simple majority or 55% of voters to approve funding for transportation projects.
- c. Continuously monitor the economic and political climate for indications that a sales tax measure to support transportation projects would be favorably received by voters.
- d. Direct staff to qualitatively consider the economic impact of development fees for proposed projects in the guidance provided by the Transportation Agency to land use agencies.
- e. In coordination with member agencies, actively support transportation-related policies and projects that are business friendly in terms of the retention or expansion of existing businesses and that have the potential to attract new business to the region.
- f. Use transportation projects to promote regional cooperation and partnerships among contiguous jurisdictions including the coordination and utilization of available grants and staff resources.

Goal 2 **Prioritize funding to maximize timely construction of high priority projects on State highways, rail and rapid transit corridors, and local roads and streets.**

Concurrently, pursue innovative, cost effective approaches that result in incremental progress on projects that are crucial to safety, congestion alleviation and development of alternative transportation programs.

Objectives:

- a. Fast track highway projects that are fully funded that address safety issues and support crucial local industries including tourism and agriculture.
- b. Seek funding from all available sources for priority projects on a regional basis that have a reasonable chance of full funding, or have a significant State or Federal matching funds.
- c. Employ traffic modeling technologies, corridor management system techniques and other cost effective strategies to incrementally continue progress on other crucial projects that currently lack full funding.
- d. Continue progress on alternative transportation projects that support smart growth, the development of light rail and bus rapid transit.
- e. Continually monitor the progress of project completion of vendors under all projects funded by the Transportation Agency.
- f. Consider interim development of railroad right-of-way properties for local beautification or bicycle/pedestrian uses.
- g. Collaborate with non-member, transportation-related agencies to maximize utilization of air and marine resources as integral parts of the transportation system.

Goal 3 Continue the engagement and involvement of the Board in becoming the conduits of communication, advocacy and involvement for the member agencies, contiguous jurisdictions, the community and the staff.

- a. Direct the Agency staff to develop strategic exposure for Board members to alternative transportation opportunities and options.
- b. Continue the highly effective outreach of Agency staff to member agencies and direct the staff to equip Board members with multilingual materials to ensure equitable communication to all communities.
- c. Direct staff to continue to create reports which would detail:
 - a. the equitable apportionment of available funds on a regional basis;
 - b. a listing of projects that were completed during the year and their respective budgetary and time parameters;
 - c. and progress-to-date on high priority projects that currently lack funding but are in active planning and design stages.
- e. Create a user-friendly manual of Agency projects, procedures, vocabulary and acronyms.
- f. Schedule time as appropriate at Board meetings for to share information on “best practices” relating to transportation; or suggestions on opportunities for coordination with other jurisdictions; or emerging needs.

Work Element 101: Budget, Work Program and Administration Development

Objectives:

- ◆ Prepare an annual work program in accordance with state and federal requirements, to be incorporated into the AMBAG Overall Work Program.
- ◆ Prepare a draft annual budget that supports work program activities and is constrained by reasonably available funding.
- ◆ Prepare and submit timely and accurate quarterly progress reports to AMBAG to verify progress in implementing the work program.
- ◆ Support agency activities by recruiting, training and retaining personnel in accordance with agency rules and state and federal laws.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

In April 2007, the Transportation Agency adopted updated goals and objectives with one and five-year timeframes. In 2008, the Agency filled the vacant position of an Associate Engineer and hired a part-time accounting clerk. In 2007-08, the Agency updated its Administrative Policies and Human Resources Rules and Regulations. In 2008, the Transportation Agency adopted a Transportation Investment Plan designed to guide transportation improvements over the next 25 years. The major funding for the plan would be a ½ percent sales tax placed on the November 2008 ballot. The ballot measure did not receive the necessary 2/3 super-majority vote. Consequently the work plan assumes current programs and funding mechanisms, and includes activities to optimize funding opportunities.

Tasks:

1. Update annual work program.
2. Prepare three-year agency budgets.
3. Prepare and submit quarterly progress reports to AMBAG.
4. Prepare ongoing staff assignments, evaluations and personnel actions.
5. Process work program amendments.
6. Review assignments and adjust as needed.

Products:

- ◆ Draft and Final Work Program and Budget
- ◆ Quarterly Reports
- ◆ Performance Evaluations

Work Element 102: Transportation Development Act Administration

Objective:

- ◆ Distribute Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for planning, transit and roads and streets in accordance with state law and the unmet transit needs process.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

Every three years, the Agency contracts for triennial performance audits of the transit operators and itself to assure the agencies are meeting the requirements of state Transportation Development Act law. Annually, the Agency oversees the fiscal audits for the transit operators in the County and itself and prepares an annual transit plan (in years without a triennial performance audit) evaluating their progress towards achieving the goals set in the performance audits. Annually, the agency oversees the unmet transit needs process for the areas that do not devote all of the Local Transportation Funds to transit. Periodically, an unmet transit need is found and funded in collaboration with the transit operators. Past unmet needs findings include decisions to fund weekly and then weekend service between Salinas and the South County cities, as well as a finding to support 8-hour dial-a-ride service in Soledad. In 2008, there was a finding for potential unmet transit needs for extended transit service in Soledad and new dial a ride service in Gonzales. After completing the unmet needs process, the Agency provides allocations to the transit operators and processes claims for both State Transit Assistance (STA) and LTF funding. Due to the state's budget shortfalls, in 2009 the legislature deleted State Transit Assistance funds which the local transit operators had used for capital and operating assistance. Future efforts will focus on optimal use of available transit funds in order to maximize transit services.

Tasks:

1. Coordinate annual unmet transit needs process and adopt resolution of unmet transit needs finding.
2. Maintain records and pay claims for LTF, STA and other trust fund accounts.
3. Conduct annual fiscal audit of the Agency and implement suggested changes.
4. Assist transit operators with annual financial audits.
5. Implement recommendations in Agency performance audit.
6. Prepare annual transit report.

Products:

- ◆ Annual fiscal audits for the Agency and transit operators
- ◆ Annual unmet transit needs finding
- ◆ Annual LTF and STA allocations and claims
- ◆ Annual transit report

Work Element 112: Plans Coordination and Liaison

Objectives:

- ◆ Ensure that regional transportation planning activities respond to state and federal requirements without duplication of efforts.
- ◆ Participate with other agencies in technical studies and decisions regarding funding transportation plans, programs, and projects.
- ◆ Obtain consistency in local and regional plans.
- ◆ Encourage state and federal legislation and budgets to support regional transportation.
- ◆ Diversify funding sources for transportation projects to ensure that Monterey County receives its fair share of State and Federal funds.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

Agency staff and Boardmembers regularly coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in the development of its plans, programs and funding strategies. The Agency annually adopts a state and federal legislative program to seek funding and guide staff and analysts in responding to issues of concern to the agency. An emphasis area is to secure transportation capital money to complete partially funded projects, and transit operating funds to replace lost State Transit Assistance. In 2009 efforts are underway to secure federal infrastructure stimulus funds for eligible member agencies' projects.

Tasks:

1. Participate in, prepare and distribute agendas and staff reports for Transportation Agency Board, Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
2. Provide member agencies with data and information as requested.
3. Adopt annual legislative program, review and report on new legislation, policies and guidelines, and provide annual status report to the Transportation Agency Board.
4. Work with Federal and State Legislators to support local legislative priorities.
5. Attend local, state and regional agency meetings to enhance coordination among plans and programs and support agency project funding.

Products:

- ◆ Annual Transportation Agency Legislative Program and Bill Matrix
- ◆ Periodic state, federal and regional agency updates to the Transportation Agency Board
- ◆ Board, Executive Committee and TAC minutes and agenda packets

Work Element 113: Public Involvement Program

Objectives:

- ◆ Ensure that the public is involved from the onset in all transportation plans and programs by preparing and disseminating information on transportation issues and plans and by ensuring an ample opportunity is given for effective citizen participation.
- ◆ Ensure state and federal public participation requirements are met or exceeded
- ◆ Provide information on regional transportation projects and programs.
- ◆ Increase the visibility and capacity of the Transportation Agency to serve as the premier source for transportation project planning and execution.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

Since 2002, the Transportation Agency has conducted an annual awards program. The Transportation Agency also conducts a public involvement program emphasizing outreach to the general public on individual projects and programs. As part of this effort, the Agency publishes an Annual Report, mailed to all households. The Agency also conducts an annual spring survey to gain public input on transportation priorities and preferred means for funding these projects and programs. In 2007 and 2008, the Agency conducted several community meetings and a survey to seek input on transportation improvements and to introduce the Transportation Investment Plan in preparation for a new sales tax expenditure plan. In 2007, The Transportation Agency initiated the taping and televising of Board meetings on public access television and on the Agency website. In 2008 a Transportation Agency video was completed, which highlighted the transportation projects in need of funding.

Tasks:

1. Prepare 2009 annual report; send to all households.
2. Present orientation materials for Transportation Agency Board Members and other Transportation Agency committee members.
3. Prepare news releases, newsletter articles and public service announcements on key transportation issues or Transportation Agency accomplishments.
4. Publicize Transportation Agency Board activities with the monthly “highlights” document distributed to the Central Coast Newsletter, interested individuals, groups and the media.
5. Hold annual awards program to increase the awareness and recognition of excellence in transportation in the community.
6. Prepare and update Transportation Agency fact sheets on projects and programs and provide other transportation-related information and documents to the public.
7. Continue to post Transportation Agency activities, agendas, and programs on the Transportation Agency website. Continually update website to be more user friendly.
8. Continue to televise Agency Board meetings and provide video access on the website.
9. Conduct 2010 spring public opinion survey.
10. Conduct public outreach for the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan Update.
11. Invite interested stakeholders to participate in ad hoc committees formed to promote or monitor activities related to a specific project or program.

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12. Hold special transportation information workshops open to the public to keep the communities informed of the transportation projects, programs and issues.
13. Continue hosting and appearing on the “Your Town community television program.
14. Make regular presentations to community organizations and media outlets regarding the Transportation Agency’s role and activities.
15. Work with AMBAG to implement federal environmental justice requirements in Agency work on transportation plans, programs and projects.

Products:

- ◆ 2009 Annual Report
- ◆ Transportation Agency meeting broadcasts, accessible on the web
- ◆ News releases
- ◆ Highlights of Board meetings
- ◆ Awards certificates
- ◆ Project and informational fact sheets
- ◆ Updated website
- ◆ Public Opinion Survey

Work Element 177: Freeway Service Patrol

Objective:

- ◆ To maintain a cost-effective Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) in Monterey County that will assist stranded or stalled motorists and remove freeway objects to reduce episodic traffic congestion.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Freeway Service Patrol program on Highway 101 (Beat 1) began in Monterey County in June 2000, and the Highway 1 (Beat 2) began service in July 2000. Tow operators contracted with the Agency conduct the actual service. Each year, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Transportation Agency sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperative administration of a Freeway Service Patrol in Monterey County. In 2008, the Agency launched an electronic data collection program by furnishing drivers with Personal Digital Assistants to aid with the collection of assist data. The handheld computerized data entry system increased the data accuracy and efficiency in data recording. In 2008-09 staff conducted a solicitation and contracted with tow operators for Freeway Service Patrol services for four years beginning July 1, 2009. In 2009, the Agency will continue to enhance the Personal Digital Assistants by equipping them with GPS capability to improve truck tracking and vehicle dispatching capabilities.

Tasks:

1. Administer program: provide supplies as needed, monitor use and evaluate future program needs, and process vouchers for payment of service from the contractors.
2. Conduct quarterly training and informational meetings with Caltrans, CHP and tow operators.
3. Represent the Transportation Agency at statewide Freeway Service Patrol oversight committee meetings.
4. Improve data collection techniques and enhance the Personal Digital Assistants to improve truck tracking and vehicle dispatching capabilities.
5. Work with other Freeway Service Patrol programs in the region to enhance the program's cost effectiveness.
6. Prepare an Annual Report of Freeway Service Patrol operation.
7. Continue to promote the program and increase awareness.

Products:

- ◆ Freeway Service Patrol Annual Report
- ◆ Ongoing FSP operations

Work Element 178: SAFE Call Box Implementation

Objective:

- ◆ Install and maintain a call box system and motorist aid systems on critical regional road segments throughout Monterey County.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The, Transportation Agency operates the Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) funded by a 1.00 per registered vehicle registration fee. The service was implemented in three phases:

- Phase I: US 101 (completed in 2000)
- Phase II: most of SR 1, SR 68, and SR 156 (completed in 2002); and,
- Phase III: SR 1 along Big Sur Coast (completed in 2007).

Starting with Phase II, the Agency installed TTY equipment to allow hearing-impaired persons to use the call boxes. In early 2007, the Agency completed all three implementation phases and upgraded all call boxes to digital service. Over the next year, the Agency will continue to identify locations in the rural Monterey County area for call box installation. Eligible for funding under SAFE, the Agency intends to develop an implementation plan for a 511-traveler information system in fiscal year 2009.

Tasks:

1. Develop an implementation plan for a state of the 511 traveler information system.
2. Conduct all activities related to installing call boxes in new locations, including on County roads.
3. Initiate work on other capital needs for motorist aid, including the 511-traveler information system, changeable message signs, smart call boxes and traffic data collection devices.
4. Continue tracking DMV collection of SAFE funds to assure accurate revenue collection.
5. Represent the Transportation Agency at statewide CalSAFE meetings and learn from other agency practices.
6. Continue to operate and maintain a call box system in Monterey County.

Products:

- ◆ Implementation plan for a 511 traveler information system
- ◆ SAFE Call Box Annual Report
- ◆ New call box installations
- ◆ Ongoing Call Box Services

Work Element 231: Data Collection, Uniformity and Access

Objectives:

- ◆ Develop and maintain the Regional Transportation Database of traffic counts required for regional travel forecast modeling and for public information.
- ◆ Provide assistance and guidance to member agencies on level of service and travel forecast analyses.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency conducts regular level of service monitoring and traffic counts. In fiscal year 2007, the Transportation Agency initiated a program with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to have a consolidated traffic counts program focused on the information needed to support the AMBAG model and long range planning efforts. Provision of this information on the Transportation Agency website and in a user-friendly guide to the public was completed in 2008. The Transportation Agency may also work with the cities and the County to standardize traffic impact analyses on a countywide basis.

Tasks:

1. Conduct a coordinated traffic counts program with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission with special attention towards collecting data needed for the regional travel forecast model and AMBAG's Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) reporting, investigate establishing a web-based traffic data clearinghouse.
2. Prepare a regional traffic count and monitoring report.
3. Develop and manage a transportation database to be available for use in traffic analyses, Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's), and traffic studies.
4. Maintain the Regional Transportation Database web site so that the information is readily available to the general public.
5. Provide public with information on traffic conditions and projections throughout the region.

Products:

- ◆ Regional traffic count and monitoring report
- ◆ Regional Transportation Database on the Agency website

Work Element 251: Regional Transportation and Air Quality Model Development

Objective:

- ◆ Assist in maintaining travel demand forecast capabilities for the region.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

Travel demand monitoring is performed by AMBAG to support transportation and air quality in the Monterey Bay region. The Transportation Agency is involved in AMBAG's travel model updates through its participation in the Regional Model Coordination Working Group. In 2001, the Transportation Agency secured funding for additional household travel surveys to be used as base data for the model update. In 2003, the Transportation Agency subcontracted with AMBAG, with FORA as the client, to perform modeling analysis for the reallocation of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's community facilities district transportation fee. The Agency has also utilized the regional model to prepare its nexus studies for the recently adopted regional development impact fee, to conduct rail/bus rapid transit passenger analysis forecasts and to assess performance measurements for the regional transportation plan. The Transportation Agency participates in the Model Coordination Working Group meetings as well as in a sub-committee of this group tasked with investigating the feasibility of developing a transit component to the travel demand forecasting model.

Tasks

1. Continue to participate in and support continued meetings of the Regional Model Coordination Working Group.
2. Support/assist AMBAG in traffic simulation accompaniment tools to the regional model, including performance measures, working group meetings and traffic simulation.
3. Work with AMBAG to establish model-based, performance measure assessments for the regional transportation plan and if needed, the regional transportation improvement program.

Products

- ◆ Model results as needed to support the rail/bus rapid transit passenger forecasts
- ◆ Performance measurement assessments as required for the regional transportation plan update and regional transportation improvement program adoption

Work Element 411: Environmental Document Review

Objective:

- ◆ Review environmental documents for land use and transportation elements in accordance with Guidelines for Environmental Document Review adopted by the Agency Board.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Agency has adopted Guidelines for Environmental Document Review, including land use development principles to encourage cities and the County to make a more cost-effective use of the transportation system through compact growth patterns, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly design and transit-oriented developments. The Transportation Agency participates in a program with Caltrans to coordinate analyses of the traffic impacts of proposed developments on the state highway system. In 2008, the Agency implemented a regional development impact fee program to ensure that development impacts to regional transportation infrastructure are mitigated pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Tasks:

1. Comment on transportation sections of environmental documents, evaluating the impact of proposed developments on the regional transportation system and encouraging support for alternatives to the single occupant vehicle and better coordination between land uses and transportation needs. Utilize the Transportation Agency's land use development principles in this evaluation.
2. Maintain log of environmental documents reviewed.
3. Update and revise, as needed, the Guidelines for Environmental Document Review.
4. Coordinate the imposition of the regional impact fee with Caltrans' recommendations on project specific mitigations to assure fair share contributions based on the traffic impacts on state highways caused by new land use development.
5. Participate and provide comments, as necessary, at public hearings, scoping meetings, project review meetings, City Council meetings and LAFCO hearings pertaining to new developments' impacts to the regional transportation system.
6. Update and distribute environmental document review comments through the website for public availability.
7. Complete the transition of the Environmental Document Review Log to a database/GIS based system to better track the project status, location, planned development, and impact fee payment of new developments.

Products:

- ◆ Comment letters on revised General Plans and development proposals with a major impact on the regional transportation system
- ◆ Annual Board Report on Environmental Document Reviews
- ◆ In-house Environmental Document Review Log
- ◆ Library of environmental documents

Work Element 614: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning & Education

Objective:

- ◆ Support and promote bicycle and pedestrian travel in the region.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency administers several programs to promote bicycle and pedestrian travel. The Agency's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee provides input on local and regional capital projects and funding programs. Annually, the Agency sponsors the Bike Week event for Monterey County. The Agency allocates the 2% Transportation Development Act funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects every few years; a new cycle of grant funding will be allocated to jurisdictions and projects in 2009. The Agency adopted a Bicycle Facilities Service Request Program that allows bicyclists to report potential roadway hazards to public works departments. The Agency conducts a Bicycle Protection Program to distribute bicycle lockers and racks throughout the county, funded with periodic grants from the Air District. The Agency prepared a regional bikeways map, most recently updated in 2008. The Agency has a Regional Bicycle Plan to set priorities for regional bikeway improvements; in 2005 this plan obtained Caltrans certification, providing region-wide eligibility for Bicycle Transportation Account funding. In 2009, the Agency will begin the planning effort to update the Transportation Agency's Bikeways Plan. In 2006, the Transportation Agency initiated work on the Carmel Hill and River Trail Corridor project in coordination with the Big Sur Land Trust, California State Parks, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The trail is scheduled for construction in 2009-10. Initiated in 2004, the Transportation Agency finalized the Master Plan for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in 2008 and continues to assist the County of Monterey in initiating work on the Moss Landing segment of the trail

Tasks:

1. Coordinate and prepare agendas, staff reports, and minutes for the Transportation Agency Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meetings.
2. Promote Bike Week activities with AMBAG, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.
3. Administer and monitor delivery of projects funded by the Transportation Development Act (TDA) 2% Grant Program.
4. Administer the Bicycle Facilities Service Request Program in coordination with local agencies.
5. Assist agencies in installing bicycle racks and lockers under the Bicycle Protection Program.
6. Provide input and assistance to local, regional and state agencies on how to integrate bicycle and pedestrian features into roadway and land development projects.
7. Assist agencies in funding and delivering bicycle and pedestrian projects, and consolidate funding to improve delivery of projects.
8. Complete design and begin construction on the Carmel Hill and River Trail Corridor project.

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9. Assist in the funding and construction of Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail improvements in Monterey County, in accordance with the Master Plan.
10. Begin the planning effort to update the 2005 Transportation Agency Bikeways Plan.

Products:

- ◆ Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee (BPC) agenda packets
- ◆ Bike Week 2010
- ◆ Biennial Bicycle Facilities Service request form report
- ◆ Free bicycle racks and lockers to applicants of the Bicycle Protection program
- ◆ Completed design work on the Carmel Hill and River Trail Corridor project
- ◆ Allocation of TDA Article 3 2% funding for bicycle/pedestrian for FY 2009-10 through 2011-12

Work Element 621: Elderly and Disabled and Americans with Disabilities Act

Objective:

- ◆ Identify transportation needs of elderly and disabled individuals and assess the adequacy of services available to meet those needs.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) statutes require the formation of a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) in order to assist in the identification of unmet transit needs and the analysis of those needs that are reasonable to meet. The Transportation Agency's SSTAC generally meets every other month and annually holds public outreach meetings to identify unmet transit needs and transit improvements. The Transportation Agency updated the inventory of social services transportation providers in 2005. The SSTAC provides input on federal transit grant funding, particularly the Section 5310 program. Input from the SSTAC is also critical to meeting the federal environmental justice requirements. In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Agency participated in the SAFTEA-LU required effort lead by AMBAG to develop a Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Tasks:

1. Prepare agendas, staff reports, minutes and organize meetings for SSTAC. Work to assure full membership on SSTAC and improve membership records.
2. Prepare SSTAC annual report.
3. Hold an unmet transit needs hearing at SSTAC meeting.
4. Form Regional Evaluation Committee for Sec. 5310 Federal Transit Administration Elderly and Disabled transportation grants to evaluate regional projects, score applications and recommend funding.
5. Provide input on development of new transit and accessible taxi services, as well as new Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority.

Products:

- ◆ Unmet transit needs recommendation
- ◆ Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) annual report
- ◆ Section 5310 grant funding recommendation

Work Element 622: Regional Transportation Plan & EIR

Objective:

- ◆ Keep the regional and metropolitan transportation plans updated in coordination with AMBAG and in accordance with state and federal requirements.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

In order to be eligible for federal transportation funds, the region must have an adopted Regional Transportation Plan. The Transportation Agency has prepared Regional Transportation Plans (RTP's) since 1974. AMBAG incorporates the regional transportation plans into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which serves as the federally required document. Presently the RTP and MTP are updated every 5 years. This schedule may change to better align with the state's schedule for issuing greenhouse gas emissions targets for each region. The last regional and metropolitan plans were adopted in 2005 and an EIR for the plans was certified. The required 2010 update of the Regional Transportation Plan was initiated in coordination with AMBAG, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and San Benito Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2008-09. This coordinated process is being undertaken to reduce costs and eliminate duplication of efforts. The adoption of AB 32 and SB 375 add additional planning and air quality considerations for the Regional Transportation Plan. Under the new laws the California Air Resources Board is tasked with identifying greenhouse gas targets that the plan must address. Also, the region must conduct a "Blueprint Planning" process to create a "preferred growth scenario" that is meant to guide future land development in a fashion that reduces emissions. AMBAG is the lead agency for the blueprint planning effort. The 2010 Regional Transportation Plan update will respond to these planning and greenhouse gas regulations and anticipate the state's emissions targets.

Tasks:

1. Preparation of an updated 25-year Regional Transportation Plan that is consistent with any transportation investment plan, updated project costs and recent revenue estimates.
2. Coordinate preparation and certification of an environmental document for the regional plan.
3. Work with AMBAG, Caltrans, and other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in Caltrans District 5 to update freight and goods movement studies.
4. Employ the SAFTEA-LU compliant Public Participation Plan in development of the RTP update process. Work with AMBAG and other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies on AMBAG-led Blueprint Planning undertakings.

Products:

- ◆ 2010 Regional Transportation Plan update and certified environmental document certification

Work Element 626: Congestion Analyses and Congestion Management Program Conversion

Objective:

- ◆ Identify and monitor existing traffic congestion problems and assist local jurisdictions minimize traffic impacts from proposed development.
- ◆ Coordinate land use and transportation planning to mitigate or prevent traffic congestion.
- ◆ Administer regional traffic impact fee program.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

In 1990, California adopted a law requiring the preparation of regional Congestion Management Programs (CMPs) to help mitigate the traffic impacts of new development. The Transportation Agency first adopted a CMP in 1992, with the last update in 1994. As of 1996, regions can elect not to participate in the statutory CMP. Since that time, the Agency has focused on development of a Regional Development Impact Fee as a replacement for the prior CMP activities. In 2008, the Transportation Agency completed Nexus Study and developed a schedule of development impact fees to be collected by the land use agencies in the county. The County and each city in the county entered into a Joint Powers Agreement creating the Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency. By agreement between the Joint Powers Agency and the Transportation Agency, the Transportation Agency is responsible for administering the fee program. The fee became effective in August 2008. In order to guide the use of the fee revenues, under the Joint Powers Agreement, the Agency must adopt a Strategic Expenditure Plan no later than August 2009.

Tasks:

1. Administer the Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency.
2. Maintain the necessary accounts and accounting procedures to implement the Regional Impact Fee.
3. Prepare Strategic Expenditure Plan for regional fee program for Board adoption.
4. Maintain an annual fee schedule and a fee implementation manual for local planning departments.
5. Replace the Congestion Management Program with the Regional Impact Fee program, long-range planning and traffic monitoring activities.

Products:

- ◆ Regional Impact Fee Strategic Expenditure Plan, in accordance with the Joint Powers Agreement
- ◆ Regional Impact Fee Procedures Manual
- ◆ Resolution replacing the Congestion Management Program with the Regional Impact Fee program

Work Element 634: Transit and Livable Communities Planning

Objective:

- ◆ Promote cost-effective local and regional bus transit services.
- ◆ Promote transit-oriented development and livable communities.
- ◆ Achieve better coordination of taxi services, particularly in the Monterey Peninsula.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Agency works closely with Monterey-Salinas Transit and local transit providers to maximize the efficiency of and funding for bus transit service within Monterey County. In 2002, the Transportation Agency initiated the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) incentive grant program to provide funds to jurisdictions with infill or transit-oriented development projects. In 2008, the Agency completed a study on the establishment of a regional taxi authority for Monterey County, with a focus on the Monterey Peninsula jurisdictions.

During the state budget process in 2008 and 2009, major reductions were made to State Transit Assistance funds that the operators rely on for capital and operations support. State Transit Assistance is no longer funded by the state for 2009-10 and beyond. The Agency will endeavor to identify replacement funding from state, federal, or regional sources. Also, future funding allocations will focus on optimal use of available transit funds in order to maximize transit services.

Tasks:

1. Provide assistance and input to transit operators on existing and new transit route systems.
2. Administer Transportation for Livable Communities transit-oriented development incentive program, including monitoring the performance of existing projects, revising guidelines as needed and allocating funds in the next round of Regional Surface Transportation Program grants.
3. Approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program of Projects for rural transit services in Monterey County.
4. Work with participating jurisdictions to implement the findings of the Monterey County Regional Taxi Study.
5. Seek new transit operations funding.

Products:

- ◆ Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program of Projects.
- ◆ Establishment of a Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority.

Work Element 641: Regional Transportation Improvement Program and Project Delivery

Objectives:

- ◆ Develop, adopt, and maintain the Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Monterey County, which contains the Transportation Agency's 5-year state and federal funding investment priorities for highway and other transportation projects and programs.
- ◆ Administer federal aid funding programs whose projects are included in the regional plan, including the Regional Surface Transportation Program, the remaining Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds, and the Transportation Enhancement program,
- ◆ Assist local jurisdictions in meeting federal and state funding program requirements to secure funds for needed transportation projects from other funding programs.
- ◆ Diversify funding sources for transportation projects to ensure that Monterey County receives its fair share of State and Federal funds.
- ◆ Secure competitive state funding from a variety of non-State Transportation Improvement Program sources, such as the Proposition 1B infrastructure bond funds.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency must prepare, adopt, and submit a countywide Regional Transportation Improvement Program to the California Transportation Commission by December 15 of every odd-numbered year. The California Transportation Commission selects projects from this regional program and from the Caltrans-funded Interregional Transportation Improvement Program and adopts this program of projects generally in April of every even year as the State Transportation Improvement Program. The Agency adopted last Regional Transportation Improvement Program in January 2008. In April 2008, the Agency received Trade Corridor bond funding for the US 101 San Juan Road Interchange project. Recent Regional Transportation Improvement Programming has focused on assuring that high priority major projects are completely funded, including the Prunedale Improvement project, Airport Blvd./Hwy 101 Interchange, and Salinas Rd./SR 1 Interchange. Future efforts will seek to program funding for other high priority highway and transit projects. In accordance with SAFTEA-LU guidance, project cost estimates will be monitored and updated as appropriate.

Tasks:

1. Develop the 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Track projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program and assist project sponsors in processing amendments, requesting allocations, encumbering and spending State Transportation Improvement Program funds.
3. Assist project sponsors in delivering projects by updating on-call lists and processing task order requests for consultant planning, engineering and construction management services.

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4. Review existing allocations and initiate new allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds
5. Coordinate with AMBAG to assure that the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program incorporates any Regional Transportation Improvement Program amendments as needed.
6. Monitor state rules and regulations by attending state and regional agency meetings such as: Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Group, California Transportation Commission, Self-Help Counties Coalition, and California Council of Governments meetings.
7. Work with AMBAG, other regional, state and national entities to coordinate implementation and reauthorization of the federal transportation act (SAFETEA-LU) and the Clean Air Act.

Products:

- ◆ 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- ◆ Updated list of on-call transportation planning services consultants
- ◆ Project monitoring database
- ◆ Amendments to the State Transportation Improvement Program and related programs and plans
- ◆ Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds

Work Element 671: Corridor Studies and State Highway Project Monitoring

Objectives:

- ◆ Promote on-time, on-budget delivery of state highway projects by monitoring Caltrans work, project sponsor work and/or directing consultant work.
- ◆ Study and propose improvements to major transportation corridors.
- ◆ Submit requests to Caltrans to prepare Project Study Reports for state highway locations of concern.
- ◆ Focus on constructing safety and operational projects that are deliverable.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

In 2002, the Agency adopted a funding plan for the US 101 Prunedale area improvements that includes construction of safety and operational improvements in that corridor before the bypass, and sets a priority for constructing the following highway projects:

- ◆ US 101 Prunedale Area Safety improvements;
- ◆ Highway 156 widening and interchange improvements at US 101;
- ◆ US 101 - Airport Boulevard interchange improvements; and,
- ◆ A new interchange at Salinas Road - SR 1.

Funding for the Prunedale Improvement Project, US 101 - Airport Boulevard interchange, and Salinas Road - SR 1 is fully programmed. The environmental process is complete and final design and right-of-way are underway for the Prunedale Improvement Project and US 101 - Airport Boulevard interchange. Project development is complete for the Salinas Road - SR 1 interchange and it is ready for bidding upon allocation of programmed Proposition 1B funds by the California Transportation Commission. The Environmental Assessment document for the Highway 156 Widening and Us 101/Hwy 156 interchange was published in early 2009. Funding beyond the environmental phase has not been identified.

In 2008, the Agency secured programming of state funds for the US 101/SanJuan Road Interchange for two-thirds of the cost. In 2009 the Environmental Assessment document was completed for that project. In 2009-10 the project will progress into design and right-of-way.

In 2006, the Agency completed construction of the Highway 68-Ragsdale Drive project, which greatly improved congestion and safety problems at Ryan Ranch, the largest business park on the Monterey Peninsula. In 2008, the agency completed construction of phase 1 of the Highway 68 Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula intersection project that improves access to the Hospital. The agency continues to work closely with Caltrans and the local jurisdictions on several other important regional projects. In 2007, the Agency and Monterey County completed initial conceptual work on a frontage road project on US 101 south of Salinas, and completed a feasibility study for improvements to US 101 – Alta Road interchange. Phase 2 of the Holman highway project is at the end of the environmental document phase, and is expected to move into design in 2009. In 2009, the intersection improvements at Hwy 68 and Las Laureles Grade were completed.

Projects in various stages of development involving the Agency are included in the tasks listed below.

Tasks:

1. Serve on the following existing project development teams and work closely with Caltrans to fund and deliver these key state highway projects:
 - US 101 Prunedale Improvement Project
 - SR 156 improvements
 - Highway 1 / Salinas Road interchange project
 - US 101 / Airport Blvd interchange improvements
 - US 101 / San Juan Road interchange
2. Serve on project development teams and work closely with Caltrans and local agencies towards development of proposed interchange improvements along US 101 at Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield and King City; and along Highway 1 at Imjin in Marina.
3. Work with Caltrans and Monterey County Public Works towards construction of operational improvements on two Highway 68 intersections and to extend the truck-climbing lane on Highway 1 between Carmel Valley Road and Rio Road.
4. Work with Caltrans and Monterey County Public Works to develop alternative design and funding options for the Hwy 156 access safety issues in the Oak Hills area.
5. Coordinate with Caltrans and Monterey County on the development of transportation improvements in the Moss Landing area including the intersection at SR 1 and Dolan Road.
6. Work with Caltrans and the City of Salinas on a Project Study Report for improvements to the US 101/Sanborn Rd Interchange.
7. Work with the City of Monterey on final design of the Hwy 68 Phase 2 (Holman Hwy) widening to 4 lanes.
8. Coordinate with Caltrans and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on the preparation of a Corridor System Management Plan for Highway 1.
9. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority and assist with the ongoing transportation capital improvement planning on the former military base.
10. Work with Caltrans on programmed SHOPP projects
11. Consult with Caltrans on need for new Project Study Reports and submit a request for new documents as appropriate.
12. Work with local jurisdictions to fund and delivery on other regional projects as needed.

Products:

- Construction of Highway 68 – San Benancio intersection improvements (County)
- Completed Project Development for the Highway 68 – Corral de Tierra project. (County)
- Construction contract for Carmel Hill truck climbing lane extension (County)
- Complete Moss Landing Community Plan (County)
- Draft Corridor System Management Plan for Highway 1 (Caltrans)

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- Final Design of Hwy 68 (Holman Hwy) widening to 4 lanes (with City of Monterey)
- Construction contract for the Highway 1 / Salinas Road interchange project (Caltrans)
- Installation of “soft” median barrier on Hwy 68 (Caltrans)
- Plan for alternative access safety improvements to Hwy 156 for area residents (with Caltrans and County)
- Final design and right-of-way for the Prunedale Improvement Project.
- Final design, right-of-way, and contract award for the US 101 / Airport Blvd interchange improvements.
- Completed Environmental Assessment for the SR 156 widening and 156/101-interchange project.
- Completed Environmental Assessment for the US 101 / San Juan Road interchange and initiation of final design and right-of-way.

Work Element 6801: Railroad Crossings

Objective:

Improve at-grade crossings on the Coast Main-Line Line E and the Monterey Branch Line.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency has federal funds for grade crossing improvements along the Monterey Branch Line and the Coast Main-Line Line E. In 2006, the Agency worked with the County of Monterey and Union Pacific Railroad to complete upgrades to 17 at-grade rail crossings along the Coast Main-Line Line E. In 2008, the Agency concluded work on this project and reallocated remaining grade crossing funds to the County of Monterey Public Works Department for the implementation of a grade separated pedestrian/bicycle crossing in Castroville using the remaining federal funds together with other pedestrian and bicycle funds.

Tasks

- ◆ Coordinate with the County of Monterey on development and funding of the Castroville bicycle/pedestrian crossing

Products

- ◆ Environmental document, design, and funding plan for a pedestrian/bicycle grade separation at the location of the future Castroville Caltrain station.

Work Element 6803: Caltrain Extension Project and Coast Daylight Project

Objective:

- ◆ Initiate a new commuter rail service to Salinas as an extension of the existing Caltrain service from its current terminus in Gilroy in Santa Clara County.
- ◆ Support the initiation of the “Coast Daylight Service”, a new round trip intercity rail service along the Coast Rail Corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency is responsible for all activities related to the initiation of rail service in the Gilroy–Salinas corridor as an extension of the existing Caltrain service, in coordination with our partner agencies. The Agency’s Rail Policy Committee provides policy direction and input on these activities. In 2008, the Transportation Agency acquired rights to the use of a four-step travel forecast model, developed ridership forecasts for the project and an express bus alternative for the federal alternatives analysis, and completed a capacity study for the Union Pacific-owned Coast Main Line track between Gilroy and Salinas. Also in 2008, the Agency contracted with a consultant to perform negotiations with Caltrain regarding an operating agreement and Union Pacific Railroad regarding track access. Agency staff and the Rail Policy Committee chair also participate in the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, which is proposing a new Coast Daylight Service along the Union Pacific mainline between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Tasks:

1. Prepare agendas, staff reports, presentations and provide staff support for monthly Rail Policy Committee meetings.
2. Prepare federal new starts application and seek approval of new starts funding.
3. With Federal Transit Administration approval, enter into contract for engineering/ design and right-of-way management.
4. Work with Union Pacific and others to secure track access rights for passenger rail service to and through Monterey County.
5. Negotiate with Caltrain to finalize an operating agreement.
6. Secure County and Coastal Commission approval of the local coastal program amendment for the development of the Castroville station.
7. Begin right-of-way acquisition negotiations for station and layover facility property.
8. Attend Coast Rail Coordinating Council Meetings and assist in requesting improved service and state funding.

Products:

- ◆ Federal new starts application
- ◆ Federal authorization to proceed into preliminary engineering
- ◆ State and federal funding applications
- ◆ Track access agreement with Union Pacific
- ◆ Caltrain operating agreement

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- ◆ Local coastal plan amendment
- ◆ Consultant agreement for engineering/design and right-of-way management

Work Element 6804: Railroad Leases

Work Element 6805: Railroad Fort Ord Property

Objectives:

- ◆ Conduct real property management of the Monterey Branch Line Right-of-Way and Transportation Agency property on former Fort Ord.
- ◆ Use lease revenues to maintain these fixed assets in preparation for future transportation related uses.
- ◆ Develop the land owned by the Transportation Agency on the former Fort Ord into a transit-oriented development in conjunction with the planned train station.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency purchased the Monterey Branch Line in September 2003, and immediately began maximizing the lease revenue from the Branch Line right-of-way. The Agency received the first conveyance of property on former Fort Ord, south of Eighth Street and adjacent to Highway 1, in April 2004 and received the final conveyance (the balloon spur west of the highway) in late 2006. The Agency negotiated an agreement with County Public Works Department for maintenance of the Branch Line, and with the City of Monterey for maintenance of Agency property on former Fort Ord. The Agency has been working with FORA, Monterey-Salinas Transit and the City of Marina on coordinating uses of the City, MST and Agency property on former Fort Ord. In 2007 all agencies adopted a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to develop a transit-oriented development adjacent to the planned rail station. Due to the economic slowdown, and in particular the stagnant housing market, efforts to secure a developer for the Agency's Ford Ord property were put on hold in 2008. The activity will resume once conditions improve such that a viable development project is assured.

Tasks:

1. Negotiate new leases, renew expired leases, and collect rents from lessees.
2. Maintain upkeep of Branch Line by implementing and managing maintenance agreement with Monterey County Public Works.
3. Maintain upkeep of Fort Ord Property by implementing a maintenance agreement with the City of Monterey.

Products:

- ◆ New leases to augment Agency income from the Railroad Right-of-Way

Work Element 6806: Monterey Branch Line Transit Service

Objective:

- ◆ Initiate new commuter light rail or bus rapid transit service along the Monterey Branch Line with intercity connections to the San Francisco bay area.

Previous and Ongoing Work:

The Transportation Agency is responsible for the implementation of all activities related to the initiation of light rail or bus rapid transit service along the Monterey Branch Line with connections to the San Francisco Bay Area, in coordination with our partner agencies. The Agency Rail Policy Committee provides policy direction and input on these activities. In 2004, the Agency began an alternatives analysis to evaluate transportation uses for the Monterey Branch Line purchased in 2003. In 2006, the Agency received \$14.84 million in new state funds for the project through the State Transportation Improvement Program. In 2007, the Transportation Agency received \$825,000 of State Public Transportation Account funds for the completion of the federal alternatives analysis. In 2008, the Transportation Agency received \$3,375,000 for the completion of the federal and state environmental documents. In 2009, the Agency concluded the Alternatives Analysis phase and selected a preferred alternative. A consultant selection process was conducted and environmental document phase initiated.

Tasks:

1. Prepare agendas, staff reports, presentations and provide staff support for monthly Rail Policy Committee meetings.
2. Administer consultant contract to prepare the conceptual design, and federal and state environmental review of the Monterey Peninsula branch line fixed guideway service.
3. Manage project capital cost, operating costs, and funding plan.
4. Conduct public meetings and other outreach activities to obtain input and present information on the project and environmental reviews.
5. Coordinate with developers and cities located adjacent to the Monterey Branch Line with the purpose of including the transit line into their plans.

Products:

- ◆ State and federal environmental documents
- ◆ Conceptual designs
- ◆ State and federal funding applications