

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

April 26, 2017

Temporary Warming Shelter in Salinas Draws a Crowd to the TAMC Board Meeting

A crowd of supports and opponents of a temporary homeless warming shelter in Salinas attended the TAMC Board meeting to address a pending proposal to extend the lease of the shelter. The shelter located in a building owned by the Transportation Agency on West Market Street opened in November 2016 after the agency agreed to lease the site to the County of Monterey and the City of Salinas for 6 months to house the shelter. The lease for the shelter is due to expire on April 30, 2017.

Supporters and opponents of the shelter spoke for nearly two hours. While supporters spoke passionately about the need, opponents spoke about the negative impacts that the shelter was having on the downtown businesses and stressed the need to find another location that offered a long-term solution.

After a lengthy and sometimes emotional discussion, the TAMC Board of Directors voted 8-7 to extend the lease for 30 days; thereby allowing County time finalize one of two potential locations they have identified that could offer a long-term solution for the homeless warming shelter.

TAMC Board Receives Update on the SR 68 Scenic Highway Plan

A presentation designed to update the TAMC Board of Directors on the 68 Scenic Highway Plan was presented to board members on Wednesday. The plan is designed to evaluate current and future travel patterns between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula, the feasibility of affordable mid-term operational and capacity improvements along the highway, and the potential for wildlife connectivity enhancements.

The project team presented the following three operational and safety alternatives for the Board's consideration:

- Alternative 1: Installation of Roundabouts at Major Intersections
- Alternative 2: Selective Segment Widening with Intersection Improvements
- Alternative 3: Integrated Corridor Management (Adaptive Coordinated Signalization)

In addition to these alternatives, the project team presented a list of recommended improvements for wildlife connectivity which will be included in the final adapted corridor alternative for the highway.

The next phase of the project includes more public feedback on the alternatives. This will include a public workshop on May 4th, meeting with community groups and stakeholders individually, and promotion of the interactive project website. This public feedback will be used to help draft final recommendations for the Scenic Highway Plan.

Safety and operational improvements along Highway 68 are one of the projects in the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan that will be funded through Measure X. The final recommendations for the Scenic Highway Plan will help the Agency determine how best to use Measure X funds to construct these safety and operational improvements.

For more information about the Scenic Highway Plan, public presentations, or the interactive website, visit: <http://www.sr68sceniccorridorstudy.com/>.