

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**February 26, 2020**



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### **TAMC Board Receives a Presentation on the Blue Zones Project Monterey County**

Dan Burden, the nationally recognized authority on walkability and bikeability gave a presentation to the TAMC Board on the activities of the Blue Zones Project Monterey County. Mr. Burden's focus was designed to set the framework for activities and ideas for reducing pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities, and strategies for improving community health through active transportation.

Blue Zone Project Monterey County is initiative sponsored by the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, Montage Health, and Taylor Farms. The project is a community well-being improvement initiative designed to help people lead longer, better lives by making healthy choices easier. The initiative promotes simple permanent or semi-permanent changes to community, organization and home environments that support healthy lifestyle behaviors and habits based upon Blue Zone cultures. The focus of this initiative also supports the Transportation Agency safe routes to schools' programs and bicycle/pedestrian safety improvement activities.

### **TAMC Hosts Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors held a public hearing to receive comments to identify unmet transit needs in Monterey County.

In its role as the Transportation Development Act fund administrator, the Agency holds this hearing annually to seek public input to identify unmet transit needs in Monterey County. This unmet needs process is associated with the Local Transportation Fund, which is one of two designated funding sources for public transit created by the California Transportation Development Act.

The Agency solicits public input on unmet transit needs and places comments into the following categories:

1. Transit service improvement requests that would improve an existing service.
2. Transit service expansion requests that extend a transit route beyond its current limits and fill a gap in service.
3. Capital improvement projects that would enhance existing public transit facilities.

The hearing was the start of the unmet transit needs process. The Transportation Agency is still seeking public comments on unmet transit needs. The deadline to submit public comments and questionnaires for consideration as part of the Agency's annual unmet transit needs process is **April 30, 2020**. Comments can be mailed to TAMC, ATTN. Stefania Castillo, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. 93901. You can also send email comments to: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/transit-needs-hearings/>.

All comments will be reviewed with MST staff to consider options to implement requests and to evaluate comments based on the time frame in which unmet transit needs can be met. The unmet transit needs comments list serves as a public input tool for MST's short-and long-term transit planning and improvements.

### **TAMC Board Receives an Update on SR 156/Castroville Blvd. Interchange Project**

The TAMC Board of Directors received an update on the State Route 156/Castroville Boulevard Interchange project. The presentation which drew the attendance of North County residents and caused Supervisor Phillips to comment at its conclusion, "This is exciting" and further elaborated that the road hasn't changed since 1964 when he was in the Army and traveling on it to go up to San Francisco.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is the first of three segments that make up the larger State Route 156 Widening project. The full corridor project envisions not only the Castroville Boulevard Interchange, but also a new 4-lane corridor to the south of the existing highway and a new interchange at US 101 with improved connections to San Miguel Canyon Road.

Segment 1 will provide critical safety improvements by removing the only stop light in the corridor, constructing a new interchange to separate traffic movements, and improving the connection between the new bridge and existing pathway for students walking and bicycling to North County High School. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2022 and be completed in July 2024.