

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

January 22, 2020



TAMC Board Elects New Officers & Executive Committee Members

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County elected the following members to serve as their officers and members of the Executive Committee:

- Chair, Supervisor Luis Alejo, District 1
- 1st Vice Chair, Councilmember Ed Smith, City of Monterey
- 2nd Vice Chair, Supervisor Mary Adams, District 5
- Past Chair, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Huit, City of Pacific Grove
- County Representative, Supervisor Chris Lopez, District 3
- City Presentative, Mayor Mike LeBarre, City of King

Their terms begin upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 27, 2021 Board meeting.

18th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards

The Transportation Agency presented their 18th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor community members, programs and projects that make a significant contribution to improve transportation in Monterey County. This year's recipients include a traffic engineer, members of the Gonzales Public Works Department, an interactive traveling safety exhibit and an innovative mobility training center.

Here are the individuals, programs and projects award recipients:

Andrea Renny, *Traffic Engineer, City of Monterey* was recognized for her leadership and management skills which led to successful outcomes for two high profile projects in the city, the "North Fremont Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety Project" and the "Citywide Traffic Signal Adaptive System Project" on Lighthouse Avenue.

The Measure X funded North Fremont Street project was the first major infrastructure improvements along North Fremont Street in over 50 years. The project installed the State of California's first signalized median bicycle lanes. While this feature is the most that garners attention, the project was much more than that. It also included long overdue stormwater, lighting, signal and ADA improvements.

The Adaptive Traffic Control Systems is technology for improving traffic conditions by better synchronizing and controlling traffic signals. As a result of this system, the City experiences reduced congestion and travel time along Lighthouse Avenue and Del Monte Avenue.

Both projects were met with challenges, and through it all, Andrea was able to organize large community involvement every step of the way. As a result, she was to provide solutions that balanced the needs of the community and access for people of all abilities.

Gonzales Public Works Department, for their pilot safety program at the 5th Street Bridge in Gonzales. The bridge is the main freeway interchange in the city; and it is congested during the morning from residents driving to work and children walking to the Gonzales Middle School and Gonzales High School.

Staff members arrive at the bridge at 7:00 a.m. to set-up the traffic signs and other traffic control devices to direct traffic until 8:00 a.m. when school starts to move the traffic queues through both on/off ramps while juggling the pedestrian movements.

As a result of their work, motorists have learned to be more intentional approaching the on/off ramps and the morning delay has decreased significantly from more than 20 minutes to cross the bridge, to less than 5 minutes. The program has also increased the safety of the students who are more mindful using the crosswalks at the on/off ramp; and an unintended consequence are the personal connections public works staff is making with the children they see each day.

My Town Exhibit is a free traveling museum created by My Museum, CSU-Monterey Bay, First 5 Monterey County and Hijos del Sol which features, a neighborhood playscape with characteristics found in healthy, vibrant communities. The interactive exhibit provides a unique educational opportunity for young children and their families a way to learn about street safety through fun and play. The admission-free My Town Pop-up Children's Museum will return this to Salinas, followed by an exhibit in South County later this year to bring the experience to more families. Any communities interested in hosting future exhibits of the traveling museum can contact lauren@mymuseum.org.

Congress Avenue Rehabilitation Project, which improved road infrastructure and formal pedestrian facilities along a section of Congress Avenue Congress Avenue from

Sunset to David Avenue. This section of Congress Avenue serves as one of the main arterials in the city and provides access to schools, entry and exit gates to Pebble Beach and the City's beloved Lynn "Rip" Van Winkle Open Space Park.

Improvements included: road reconstruction, ADA ramps, a concrete pedestrian pathway, a sidewalk, curb and gutter, and various stormwater infrastructure improvements. Prior to these improvements, pedestrians traveling on this section of Congress Avenue would walk on an informal pathway comprised of decomposed granite and natural debris. Now the newly constructed pathway creates a seamless pedestrian network for young children and families that allows for increased accessibility and facilitates improved pedestrian visibility and safety.

Monterey Salinas Transit Mobility Center, for their innovative mobility travel training center. Since it opened in February 2019, the center has served more than 7,300 people a month, providing a one-stop facility to host all of MST's Mobility programs and services.

The center's design includes an indoor training room for individuals to learn how to safely and independently travel using the MST bus system. The room features a simulated street environment with two mock-up buses where individuals can experience the boarding process, a working traffic signal light with a crosswalk that includes an ADA compliant safety truncated dome surface, a variety of street surfaces to test individual mobility, two bus benches, and a bus stop flag pole.

In addition, the training room incorporates a system map display that features MST's RealTime bus arrival information that riders can access through the use of the Transit app, by text, or by phone. Use of the uniquely designed training room also allows MST to work closely with a variety of community to provide sensitivity training to its employees and promote bus travel safety to the community.

River Road & Arroyo Seco Road Pavement Rehabilitation Projects, project team for the reconstruction of approximately 5 miles of roadway along the Monterey County Wine Corridor that stretches from the City of Greenfield into the City of Salinas.

Both are mainly two-lane rural roads with minimal shoulders surrounded by agricultural lands; with sections classified as a "major collector" connecting a combination of 5,000 agricultural traffic/tourists/commuters each day to Highway 68 and Highway 101.

Just as they had in a previous project on River Road, the County of Monterey utilized a pavement reconstruction technique that involved recycling the existing pavement for both projects. By utilizing this process, they reduced the emission of greenhouse gases, costs and the damage to the nearby road network due to the amount of trucking to the jobsite on these Measure X and SB 1 funded projects.