

## **TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**

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### ***HIGHLIGHTS***

**February 27, 2013 Meeting**

#### **ONE STEP CLOSER TO START OF RAIL SERVICE TO SALINAS**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Board voted to approve Resolution 2013-02 approving the principles of agreement with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of extending Capitol Corridor passenger rail service between San Jose and Salinas.

The Transportation Agency proposes to extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. The project will function as an extension of existing state-sponsored Capitol Corridor intercity passenger rail service, operated and maintained by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. The service will provide an alternative to the highly congested US 101 corridor, as well as access to jobs, education, and health care. It will also improve interregional transportation and air quality, and promote transit-oriented development, affordable housing, livable communities and economic growth around the three stations.

Agency staff has been working with the Capitol Corridors to extend passenger trains to Monterey County from the current terminus in San Jose. Capitol Corridor trains currently operate from Sacramento to Oakland and San Jose.

The Principles of Agreement between the agencies will be used to guide the extension.

The capitol Corridor Board of Directors adopted these Principles at its February 20, 2013 meeting.

#### **CITY OF MARINA RETAINS GRANT FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING**

The Transportation Agency Board approved the City of Marina's request to extend its Transportation for Livable Communities grant by 14 months to April 2014 to support the development of a low income housing project by the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA).

The Agency awarded the \$300,000 grant to the City of Marina for the Marina Transit Village project in June 2003. The project ranked second out of five grant awards and was

cited as a prime example of transit-oriented development as a mixed-use project in downtown Marina next to a Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) center.

Last year, the Board approved the City of Marina's request to transfer the \$300,000 grant from the Marina Transit Village project to the nearby De Forest apartment building, sponsored by CHISPA. Since that time, the City of Marina has approved entitlements for the project, but CHISPA was not able to secure the required matching funds. The Transportation Agency agreed to extend the grant one more time, in order to allow CHISPA to apply again for matching tax credit funds.

The CHISPA project consists of 47 housing units for seniors located near the MST Transit Exchange.

The Transportation Agency created the Transportation Livable Communities grant program in 2003 to incentivize the creation of affordable housing in existing communities close to transit, which reduces the demand on regional road networks and increases transit ridership. The goal of the program is to promote walkable, relatively high-density development near transit options, thereby increasing living and transportation choices while reducing reliance on automobiles. In extending the grant, the Transportation Agency concluded that the CHISPA project was an excellent fit for the program and that sometimes government projects take longer than expected to finalize and secure full funding.

### **TAMC TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PRIORITIES**

The Transportation Agency Board authorized staff to release a Request for Qualifications to identify qualified consultants to conduct a survey of residents in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties about priorities for funding and projects being considered for the Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The survey will be a tool for engaging the public in developing scenarios for long-range transportation investments that support the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy being developed by the tri-county Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

The survey will address a variety of topics, including: levels of concern about community issues; use of local transportation systems; awareness of transportation infrastructure needs; attitudes regarding funding for transportation; and support of various greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County will conduct the survey in coordination with the regional transportation planning agencies for Santa Cruz County and San Benito County, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. All four agencies are working together on the coordinated development of the long-range 2014 Monterey Bay

Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which sets priorities for funding future transportation improvements.

**WHOA! BIKE RODEOS ARE COMING THIS SPRING!**

The Transportation Agency will be contracting with Ecology Action to produce, schedule, and hold bicycle safety rodeos at school sites across the County this spring. The events, which teach children the skills and precautions to ride a bicycle safely, will be conducted in lieu of the Agency's usual Bike Week activities.

Traditionally the school-based Bike Week activities have generated the highest participation. Over the past three years, school participation has averaged 80% of the total public participation in the campaign.

Bicycle rodeos have been organized by local police departments and volunteers locally in the past, are an established means of conducting bicycle awareness and safety outreach. Ecology Action has experience holding these trainings in Santa Cruz County. The Monterey County Health Department will be scheduling bicycle safety rodeos at five school sites in Marina and Seaside this spring, and has contacted the Agency expressing an interest in coordinating its outreach with the Agency's activities.