

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**June 26, 2013 Meeting**

#### **SURVEY RESULTS SHOW TRANSPORTATION STILL A TOP 5 CONCERN FOR MONTEREY COUNTY VOTERS**

From May 28 to June 6, EMC Research conducted a survey of registered voters in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties to gauge opinions and attitudes about priorities for funding and projects being considered for the Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The questions covered topics like level of concern about community issues; use of local transportation system and regional travel behavior; and attitudes regarding tax measures generally and funding for transportation specifically.

Ruth Bernstein, a principal with EMC Research, presented survey results at the Transportation Agency's Board meeting on June 26. Overall, the survey results show that optimism about the direction the County is heading is on the rise, and that transportation continues to be a top-five concern – but it follows crime, education, the economy, and water.

Survey results are just one tool that will be used to engage the public in evaluating scenarios for long-range transportation investments that support the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy being developed by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the TAMC website:

<http://www.tamcmonterey.org/new/pdf/MTP-SCS-Survey-Presentation-June-26-2013.pdf>

#### **RAIL CLOSER TO REAL WITH LEASE AGREEMENT FOR LOT NEAR SALINAS TRAIN STATION**

Monterey County is another step closer to having a new and improved rail station in Salinas. The Transportation Agency's board approved the real estate acquisition and lease agreements with the Monterey County Employees Credit Union for its lot on 20 West Market Street, directly across from the Salinas Train Station.

The Agency is currently planning the Rail Extension to Monterey County project, including finalizing the federal environmental document, and is in preliminary design phase. This parcel will be needed for the parking lot planned for the area of the Salinas Rail Station.

## **TAMC FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABILITY**

The Transportation Agency directed its attention to ensuring a sustainable future for Monterey County on Wednesday, receiving a report from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments on the 2014 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, and approving the Agency's Complete Street Project list. These two items offer insights into what Monterey County may look like in the future.

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments is conducting workshops and surveys to garner public input in order to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy that achieves greenhouse gas targets for the region. The strategy must be adopted by June 2014 to meet state planning requirements.

Meanwhile, the Transportation Agency Board took steps towards making sustainability a reality by approving the Complete Streets Project list. These projects aim to improve safety and comfort for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders. The list of projects identified will also be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

## **FEWER NEW TRIPS WILL REDUCE REVENUE FROM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES**

The Transportation Agency's Regional Development Impact Fee program provides a mechanism through which "growth pays for growth" and the county's projected transportation needs can be met. The program, which was originally adopted by the Board in August 2008, collects fees on the proportional impact of new development on regional transportation infrastructure, helping to streamline the process for analyzing and mitigating transportation impacts. The agency is required to update the fee program once every five years, to ensure that projected fees from future projects correctly address travel forecast models, general plan updates, financing, and population growth projections.

On May 22, the Transportation Agency's Board approved the updated 2013 Regional Development Impact Fee, which now expects to generate \$142 million, \$74 million less than the previous regional fee estimate of \$216 million. The change is due to changes in the regional travel demand model, which forecasts considerably fewer new trips between 2013 and 2030. The majority of the trip reductions are coming from the Greater Salinas and South County areas.