

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

October 23, 2013 Meeting

WHAT'S NEXT? PROPOSED LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS PRESENTED

Every two years the State programs transportation revenues from gas taxes and bond funds towards projects selected by the regions and Caltrans in the State Transportation Improvement Program. Staff presented Board members a draft of proposed priority projects for the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program, which covers the period from 2014/15 to 2018/19. At its meeting, the Transportation Agency discussed potential projects to nominate for state funding, based on the Agency priorities, readiness, and availability of additional funding sources. In December, the Transportation Agency will choose a set of projects from this list that falls between its funding target range of \$14 million to \$20 million. The agency will also review the existing projects that have been programmed for state funds. Projects under consideration for new state funding are: :

- **Imjin Road Widening to Four Lanes (\$2.0M):** This project would widen Imjin Parkway from two to four lanes between Imjin Road and Reservation Road. Imjin Parkway serves as a connection between Salinas and Marina, and provides an alternative route to Highway 68 for travel between Salinas and Monterey. The request would be for environmental and design funds to develop the full project cost and scope, with an expected future request for construction funds.
- **Monterey-Salinas Transit Buses (\$2.0M):** Monterey-Salinas Transit has a dire need to replace buses in its aging fleet. This funding request would be used to match federal funds to purchase ??? new buses for Monterey-Salinas Transit.
- **Salinas Rail Extension, Kick Start (\$5.0M):** The Salinas Rail Extension program is seeking to move forward utilizing state-only funding. This request would be used to fully fund the kick start project for the construction of the Salinas rail station facilities.
- **Salinas Layover Facility Right of Way (\$3.6 M):** **This funding would support the Rail to Salinas project by allowing the purchase of right of way for the permanent layover facility at the Salinas Station.**
- **Castroville Crossing (\$1.5M):** The Castroville Bicycle Path and Railroad Crossing project is estimated to cost \$8.1 million – this request would fill the gap and fund the project through construction.

The Board of Directors also asked staff to evaluate the potential for funding intersection improvements at Highway 1 at Del Monte and Fremont Streets to improve operations at this regional intersection.

The Transportation Agency expects to adopt a final funding proposal in its 2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program at its December 4, 2013 meeting. That program will be submitted to the California Transportation Commission for its consideration and final adoption on March 19, 2014.

DESTINATION 511: **TAMC LOOKS AT THE FUTURE OF TRAVELER INFORMATION**

The proposed 511 traveler information system for the Monterey Bay Region, the future “go-to” spot for all the facts travelers need to know about journeying through the region, was presented to the Agency Board. Right now, travel and transit information for the area is scattered in many locations, making it challenging for people to find out what the road conditions are and just how many options they have how to get around. The 511 traveler information system reduces that challenge by providing a way to better inform travelers in our region about what’s happening and their options with regard to driving and transit. The system would be a joint venture with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

The implementation plan describes how 511 multimodal transportation services can be provided on the internet by integrating Caltrans’ QuickMap traffic conditions webpage, local rideshare programs, and other 511 resources into one web page. By establishing a web presence for traveler information in our region, people will become familiar with 511 as the place to go for information, which is important for daily commutes and weekend fun, and also in the event of an emergency. A 511 web presence can reduce the number of 911 calls, both daily and during an emergency, leaving those emergency phone lines available for people in need of a live operator.

By implementing the 511 system, the Transportation Agency and Santa Cruz Transportation Commission would be proactive in providing important traveler information, so people are informed of current conditions and the variety of travel options in our region. A final plan will be brought forward for adoption in late 2013 or early 2014.

TAMC SEEKS NOMINEES FOR TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

It’s time again for the annual Transportation Excellence Awards and TAMC, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, is seeking nominations! TAMC loves to show its appreciation to the local community for outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County.

Awards categories are individual, business/group, program or project. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.

- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.

Nomination forms are available on TAMC's [website](#) and are due by noon on December 6, 2013.

The Transportation Excellence Awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 2014 Transportation Agency board meeting.