



## **TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**

### ***HIGHLIGHTS***

**September 23, 2026**

#### **TAMC Board Receives Update on the SR 156 / Castroville Boulevard Improvement Project**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) presented an update to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors on the State Route 156/ Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project. The project will construct a grade-separated interchange at the intersection of State Route 156 and Castroville Boulevard, replacing the existing traffic signal. The project is designed to improve safety, reduce traffic delays, facilitate regional and agricultural freight movement, and enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity within the Castroville area.

With the allocation of construction funds by the California Transportation Commission in June 2026, the State Route 156/ Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project now has the funding necessary to proceed into the construction phase. The cost of the construction is \$75.5 million. Funding sources include \$15.389 million in local TAMC Measure X and Regional Development Impact Fee funds, \$48.2 million in Senate Bill (SB) 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program funds, \$10.3 million in SB 1 Local Partnership Program Competitive funds, and \$1.576 million SB 1 Local Partnership Program Formula funds.

Caltrans District 5 is currently working to finalize the bid package documents and complete all remaining administrative activities necessary to advertise the project for construction bids in Fall 2026. Advertisement of the project will mark the final step before the award of a construction contract and the start of major construction activities.

Construction of the State Route 156/ Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project is anticipated to start in Spring 2027 and be completed in Fall 2029. It should be noted that the start and end of construction dates are dependent on the progress of ongoing utility relocation work currently underway and weather conditions.

## **Safe Streets Together Monterey County Safety Awareness Campaign**

Monterey County continues to face a significant roadway safety challenge. In 2024, 42 people were killed and 2,406 were injured on local roads, an average of nearly seven people every day. Achieving lasting reductions in fatal and serious-injury crashes requires a comprehensive approach that combines data-driven planning, infrastructure investments, education, and community engagement.

To address this challenge, TAMC and its local, regional, and community partners are implementing a coordinated Safe Systems approach through three complementary initiatives: the Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan, the Measure X Safe Routes to School Program, and the Safe Streets Together Monterey County campaign. Together, these efforts advance safety policies, fund and deliver infrastructure improvements, and promote safer travel behaviors to create a transportation system that is safer for everyone.

### **Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan**

The Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan provides a data-driven roadmap for reducing fatal and serious-injury crashes on rural and unincorporated roads. Developed through crash analysis, a Rural High Injury Network, community outreach, and input from a multidisciplinary task force, the Plan identifies Monterey County's most significant safety challenges and prioritizes the locations and strategies that will have the greatest impact.

Adopted by the TAMC Board of Directors on March 25, 2026, the Plan establishes a goal of reducing fatal and serious injuries by 30% by 2030 and eliminating them by 2040. The Plan outlines prioritized policies, systemic safety improvements, and targeted projects, while integrating safety into agency programs and processes to create a coordinated, fundable approach to achieving Vision Zero in Monterey County.

### **Measure X Safe Routes to School Program**

The TAMC Board established the Measure X Safe Routes to School Program in 2018 to fund infrastructure, planning, education, and encouragement programs that make walking and bicycling safer and more accessible for students and families. The program supports safer school travel, healthier transportation choices, improved air quality, and reduced traffic congestion around schools.

Through partnerships with local agencies, schools, and community organizations, the program delivers safety education, school travel planning, traffic gardens, walking school buses, sidewalk

art projects, crossing guard training, and other activities that support the Safe Systems approach.

The program seeks to develop the next generation of transportation and community leaders through partnerships with local colleges and direct engagement with youth. Recent efforts have expanded opportunities for high school students to participate in planning, community safety projects, and grant development, with additional opportunities for youth involvement being explored through future Safe Streets Together Monterey County campaigns.

Measure X provides approximately \$667,000 annually for Safe Routes to School projects and programs. To date, \$1.24 million in Measure X funds has leveraged more than \$55 million in state and federal grants to advance planning, infrastructure improvements, and community-based safety initiatives throughout Monterey County.

### Safe Streets Together Monterey County Campaign

Safe Streets Together Monterey County is a countywide public awareness campaign designed to increase awareness of roadway safety issues and encourage safer travel behaviors. Based on the Safe Systems approach, the campaign focuses on the "Safer People" element by emphasizing that roadway safety is a shared responsibility among all users.

The campaign is a partnership between TAMC, Salinas Valley Health/ Live Well Project (formerly Blue Zones Monterey County), the Monterey County Communications and Health Departments, and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS). Critical to the public outreach efforts of the campaign is the engagement of the enLACE Leadership and Civic Engagement program, funded by the Monterey County Health Department. The enLACE program is designed to empower Monterey County residents to build stronger and healthier communities.

The partnership piloted the first Safe Streets Together Monterey County campaign in San Ardo in Spring 2026. The partnership is launching the second campaign in King City in October 2026. The partnership secured grant funding through Active Transportation Program funds to support future campaigns in Chualar, Castroville, and Salinas, matched with Service Authority for Freeways and Expressway (SAFE) funds from TAMC.