

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

February 24, 2016

TAMC LOSING NEARLY \$7 MILLION IN STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County learned that it will lose nearly \$7 million in funding from the State Transportation Improvement Program. At its January meeting, the California Transportation Commission approved a reduced 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program Fund Estimate based on lower fuel tax revenues. The change reduces the statewide program by \$750 million dollars for the next five-year period. As a result, TAMC must remove \$6.9 million from current projects as Monterey County's share of the state-wide funding shortfall. Funding cuts for the following projects were approved by the Board on Wednesday:

US 101 South County Freeway Conversion in the Salinas Valley-

Reduction of \$5 million, which removes the project from the program. This funding would have started design and environmental work for frontage roads from Soledad to South Salinas. This segment of Highway 101 is a 4-lane expressway that includes twelve intersections and numerous private driveways. Traffic entering and exiting the highway in this area includes trucks crossing railroad tracks, and slow moving agricultural equipment, all of which mixes with high-speed cars traveling on the highway causes concerns for congestion and safety.

Highway 156 Improvement Project in North Monterey County-

Reduction of \$2 million of the \$32.5 million currently programmed in the STIP for this project. This project will construct a new 4-lane freeway between Castroville and the existing 101 interchange in Prunedale. The existing 2-lane facility would have been converted to a frontage road. This route is a major regional and interregional thoroughfare used by tourists, commuters, freight shipping vehicles, and residential travelers.

In addition, there are 5 other projects that could be delayed in the future without a State legislative fix due to the funding shortage.

TAMC BOARD APPROVES FINAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

After a robust and lengthy discussion, that included some give and take, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors reached consensus on key components of TAMC's Transportation Safety & Investment Plan to raise funds for long delayed road maintenance, safety, congestion and mobility needs in Monterey County.

The Agency's Board of Directors agreed to a spending plan that will split the estimated \$600 million raised through a 30-year, 3/8% transportation sales tax. The Board voted to approve a 60 /40 percent split between local and regional projects. They also agreed that the formula to divide the 60% share amongst the cities and the county would be a 50/50 split based upon the population and lane miles in each of the jurisdictions.

The Board came close to finalizing the second key component of the plan: determining which regional highway & road safety and mobility projects will be funded through the measure. Because of the 60/40 split the County agreed to fund River Road maintenance, safety and bicycle lanes which had been on the regional list with their share of local funds. While questions remain whether it would be the Del Monte/Lighthouse Avenue Corridor or the Holman Highway 68 would make the final cut, the Board approved all of the other proposed projects. The final determination about the remaining two projects under consideration will be made at the next TAMC Board meeting.

The projects approved for the regional list are:

Highway and Road Safety

- Highway 68 –Salinas to Monterey
- Castroville Blvd- SR156 Interchange
- Imjin Road/Parkway
- Highway 1-Rapid Busway
- Habitat Preservation

Mobility for Youth, Seniors, Working Families:

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Commuter Bus Transit, Salinas Valley Transit Center(s), Vanpools
- Senior Transportation
- FORTAG-regional paved path project

The Investment Plan is a crucial part of the Agency's efforts to become a "self-help" county and would give Monterey County the opportunity to compete for federal and state grants for local projects.