

You Ask We Respond

Local Needs

Local Solutions

2014-2015 Annual Report



Who and what is TAMC?

We are the Transportation Agency for Monterey County: The regional agency responsible for planning, funding and delivering transportation projects for Monterey County. We are a small agency overseen by a 23-member Board of Directors which includes each of the five county supervisors, a representative from each of the 12 cities, and non-voting representatives from six public agencies, including Caltrans.

Our mission is to plan, fund and deliver transportation projects that improve safety, relieve congestion, facilitates the movement of people and commerce, and improve the quality of life in Monterey County. Projects can vary in size and scope, ranging from a large project, such as a highway or road project, rail or bus service; to smaller projects such as neighborhood crosswalks, bicycle paths and bike racks, to hiking and scenic recreational trails.



How does TAMC deliver on its promise?

Monterey County is 3,371 square miles and home to over 415,000 people.

It's been described as being one of the most beautiful places on earth. A place where sun-kissed shorelines on the Monterey Peninsula stretch and give way to fertile fields and farms in the Salinas Valley.



It's a place that draws millions of visitors because of its natural beauty, world renowned institutions, festivals and \$8 billion agricultural industry, known as the "Salad Bowl of the World."



Whether you are a local resident or visitor to the place we call home, both of you depend upon us, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, to deliver on our promise to plan, fund and deliver transportation projects that improve safety, reduce traffic, and facilitates movement of people and goods to enhance our quality of life.



From the moment you step out your door, you count on us to make your trip as safe and as hassle-free as possible. That mandate falls upon the elected Board members and the professional planning and engineering staff at the agency.

But we are partners! A key component of meeting that responsibility is you. We count on hearing from you and we do! We count on you asking and expressing what you think our transportation needs are. **You can count on us to listen; and you can count on us to respond.**



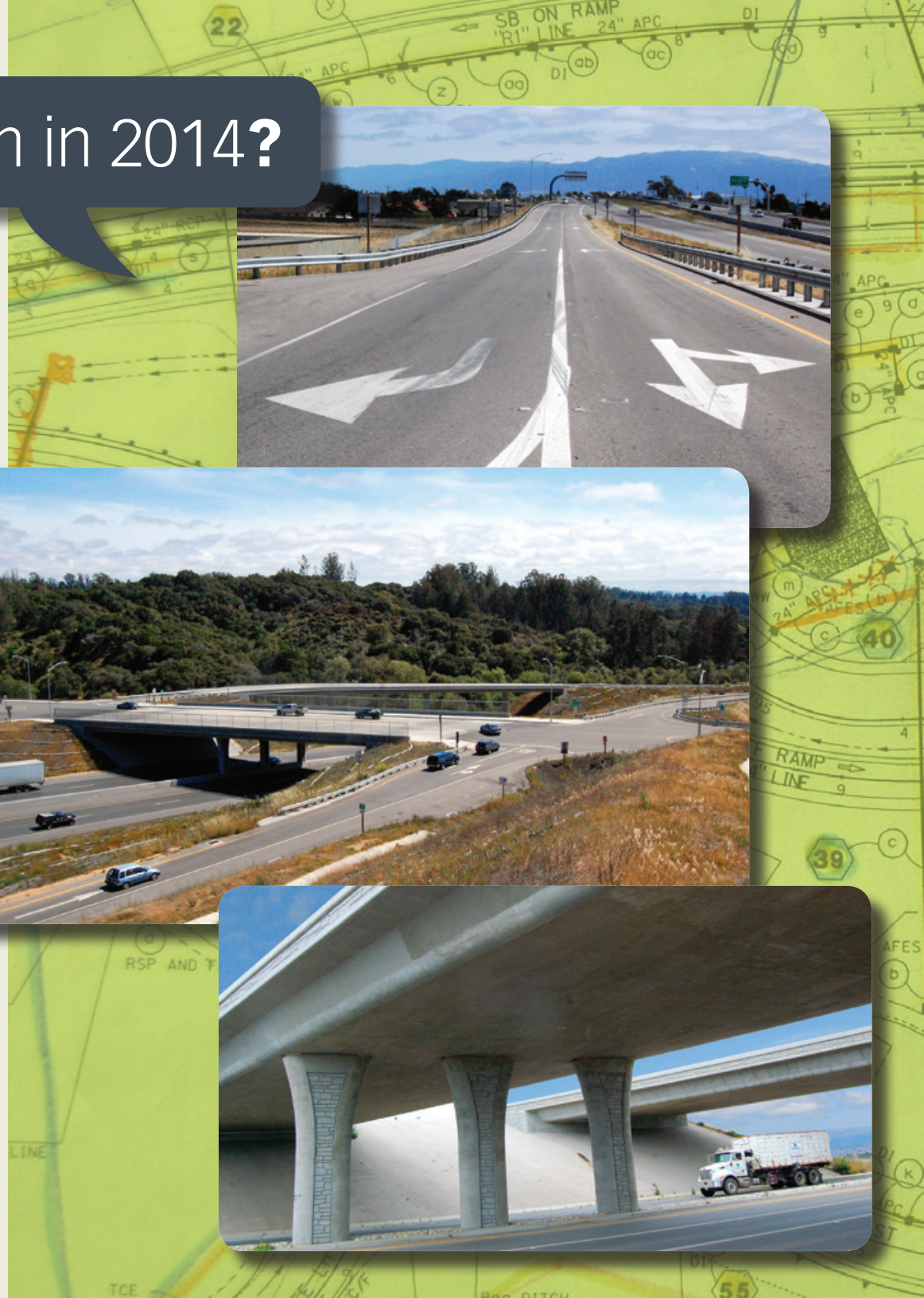
What did we accomplish in 2014?

U.S. 101-Prunedale Improvement Project

We celebrated the completion of the U.S. 101-Prunedale Improvement Project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 27, 2014.

By eliminating dangerous left turns across U.S. 101 and building a new interchange, the Prunedale Improvement Project provides safer and more efficient passage for approximately 100,000 travelers and local residents every day.

The completion of this \$225 million project marks the successful end of construction for the largest transportation project in Monterey County since the early 1960s.

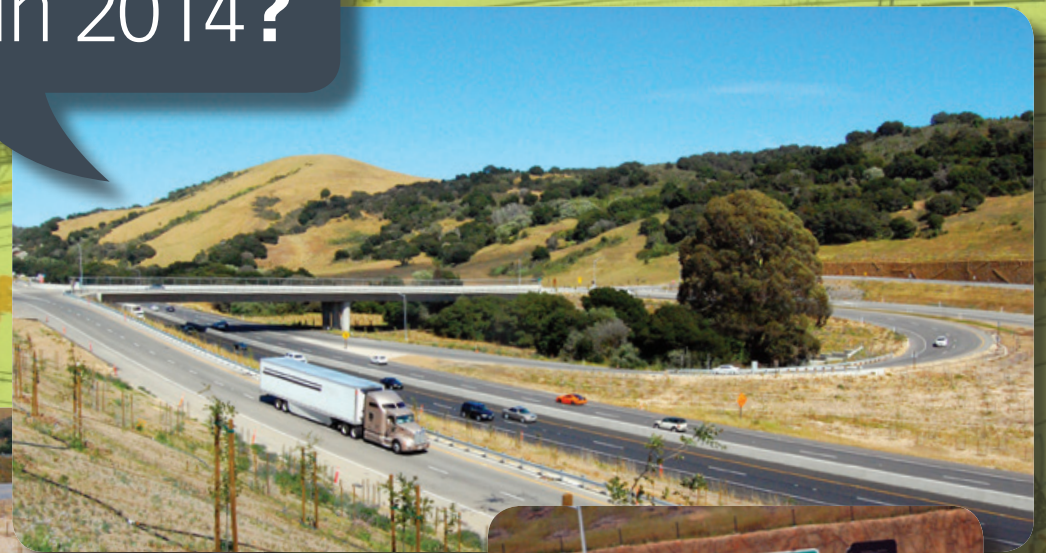


What did we accomplish in 2014?

U.S. 101-San Juan Road Interchange

The U.S. 101-San Juan Road Interchange Project is quickly coming to completion. We expect this safety project, often referred to as the “Red Barn” project, to be complete in July 2015. The \$96 million San Juan Road Interchange Project will remove three dangerous locations where drivers could enter or make left turns across the highway. When completed, a new interchange near the Red Barn, making the highway safer for the more than 60,000 vehicles that travel daily through this area.

This project was funded with local, state and federal monies, including \$10 million from the Federal Stimulus Act and \$28 million from Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved bond.



What projects are we working on?

Holman Highway Roundabout at Pebble Beach

Plans to relieve congestion near the busy intersection of Holman Highway 68 and the Highway 1 Southbound Exit Ramp took a step forward in 2014. The Agency approved \$3.2 million to complete funding to construct a roundabout at this location. The Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project is designed to relieve congestion near the entrance to Pebble Beach, the Community Hospital, and the Highway 68/ Highway 1 intersection. It is the first major roundabout in the county. Building roundabouts to relieve traffic jams, improve safety and reduce air pollution emissions are being explored for 24 other locations in Monterey County. The Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project is a public-private partnership between the City of Monterey, Pebble Beach Company, TAMC, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Monterey County, and Caltrans. Construction is expected to start in 2016.

For more information about the project, click onto <http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/roundabouts/hwy68rndabt.html>.



What projects are we working on?

Via Salinas Valley

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the Monterey County Health Department have forged a new partnership with cities in the Salinas Valley in a regional effort to improve health, access and safety. Known as the “Via Salinas Valley: Pathway to Health,” this health initiative funded through an Active Transportation Program State grant, is designed to provide more “active transportation” options for residents of the cities of Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield and King City.

The construction of new sidewalks and bike lanes in these communities will result in safer places to walk and bike, and slow down traffic near schools, parks and other key destinations. As a result, a more active lifestyle will lead to healthier communities in the Salinas Valley.



What projects are we working on?

Imjin Road Widening

The vast majority of jobs and housing in Monterey County are located in the City of Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula resulting in substantial travel between these two areas. The second most traveled route between the two areas is Highway 1 via Imjin Road/Parkway. This two-lane road links commuters with housing, jobs, California State University Monterey Bay, Monterey Peninsula College and Hartnell College. It also serves as an alternative to the highly congested Highway 68. The Imjin Road Widening Project will widen this two-lane road to four-lanes. In 2014, TAMC funded the environmental and engineering study to start this project.



What projects are we working on?

Passenger Rail Service: Capitol Corridor Extension & Coast Daylight

Significant progress continues to be made to bring new rail service to connect Salinas and Silicon Valley via the **Capitol Corridor Extension** to Monterey County. The Agency is working to acquire land around the Salinas station and brought on a new design team this year to finalize the station area plans. This work is in preparation for construction of the track, road, and parking improvements around the station.

The **Coast Daylight Train Project** is a proposed passenger rail service that will ultimately operate one daily round trip between San Francisco and Los Angeles along the coast. This year, TAMC worked with the Federal Railroad Administration and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments to publish a draft environmental document for public review. This document will enable the agencies to apply for state or federal funding to construct improvements to the rail line. *For more information about passenger rail service, click onto http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/rail/project_flyers.html.*



What projects are we working on?

Highway 156

Improving conditions on Highway 156 continues to be a high priority for the Transportation Agency. Committed to finding a solution to help improve safety, local access and relieve current and future traffic congestion along the busy highway, the Agency is exploring various funding options for this \$268 million project.

One option under consideration is to use tolling to fund a new four-lane express road, adjacent to the existing Highway 156. Should the Agency's Board of Directors opt to pursue the toll road option, the existing Highway 156 would remain as a free alternative for anyone who chooses not to use the new expressway. *For more information about the Highway 156 Project, click onto <http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/hwyproj/hwy156.html>.*



What projects are we working on?

Highway 68

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County has received funding to study how to improve traffic flow & safety on Highway 68 between Salinas and Monterey and make the highway more environmentally sustainable. The study, known as the Monterey-Salinas Scenic Highway Plan, will be used to improve safety, reduce congestion, and enhance environmental conditions along the scenic highway.

The plan, which will kick off in late 2015, will study current and future travel patterns between Monterey and Salinas, evaluate affordable near-term improvements, and determine opportunities to make enhancements for wildlife to safely move across the highway. Once completed, the plan will provide the data, analysis, and public conversation necessary to make informed decisions about which new transportation projects to build to improve traffic flow and safety on the scenic highway.



What other projects were completed in 2014?

Local Road Improvements

Nearly \$8.7 million was approved for local improvement projects throughout the county. TAMC's three-year competitive grants program funded local roads & facility streets, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects; linked communities with city services; and improved safety. Selected projects are distributed through the county, from Moss Landing to King City.

Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan

The Agency held several Multi-Modal Corridor workshops which provided the public the opportunity to help plan for fast, frequent and reliable bus service, comfortable bike routes and safer pedestrian crossings near homes, schools and places of employment between Marina and Salinas.

The input provided at these public sessions will be an important component to help shape the development of the plan which connects the Monterey Peninsula, Marina and Salinas.

Freeway Service Patrol

Agency roving tow trucks provided over 4,500 assists on Highway 1 and U.S. 101 during peak travel times in 2014. These tow trucks reduce traffic congestion and improve safety by quickly clearing accidents, stalled vehicles and roadway hazards. By reducing traffic jams, this program provides \$4.50 in benefit for every \$1.00 spent, making it a highly cost-effective way to invest in our roadways.

What other projects were completed in 2014?

Monterey-Salinas Transit Service Funding

The Transportation Agency distributed state and local funds needed to operate MST buses across Monterey County. This money paid for services to thousands of customers who use MST to get to work, school, medical appointments, shopping and other daily activities.

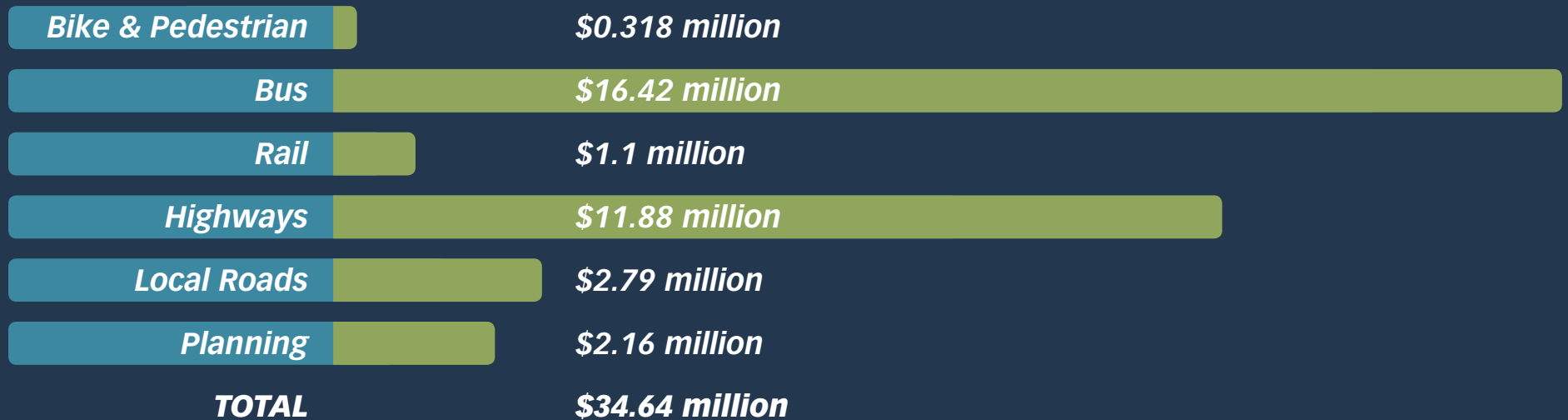
Imjin Road and Davis Road Bike Lanes

Imjin Road is a major thoroughfare for thousands of commuters, some of whom are bicyclists who commute between the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. The completion of the new bike lanes on Imjin Road by the City of Marina and on Davis Road by the County of Monterey provides an important link between existing bike lanes on Blanco Road and bicycle paths on Imjin Parkway.

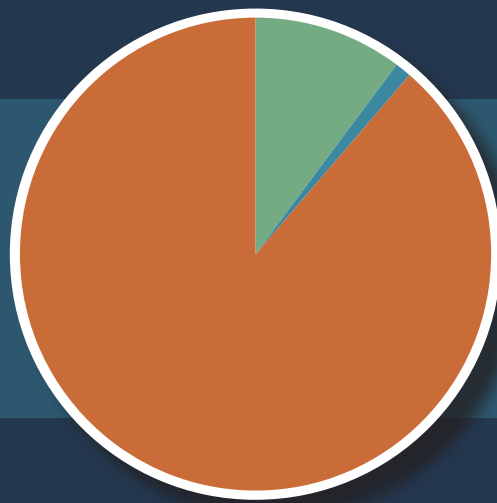
To catch the attention of motorists, potential conflict points on road are painted green, alerting drivers to share the roadway with bicyclists. This new cutting-edge technique provides safer conditions for bicyclists and motorists traveling on this heavily congested thoroughfare.

The new bike lanes on Imjin Road are just the first phase of safety and congestion relief improvements planned for that Marina to Salinas corridor.

How were TAMC's funds spent in 2014?



Excluding money provided directly to Caltrans, local cities and Monterey County



Revenue, 2014





More thoughts or questions?
Share your ideas by joining the
conversation on *mySidewalk* at
www.tamc.mysidewalk.com.