

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25
Doug Bilse, Principal Engineer	P	A	A	A	C	P	C	A
Aaron Hernandez, Transportation Planner	A	P(VC)	A	P	E	A	E	A
Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant	P	P	P	P	L	P	L	P
Ariadne Sambrano, Transportation Planner	P	P	P	A	L	P	L	P
Janneke Strause, Associate Transportation Planner	P(VC)	A	A	A	E	A	E	P
Christina Watson, Director of Planning	P	P	P	A	D	A	D	P
OTHERS PRESENT:								
Nathalie Gomez	District 3 Alternate		Hans Hoffman Jr		Salinas Resident			
Mari Lynch	Public		Brian McMinn		Salinas Alternate			

1. Chair Novo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established, and Maria Montiel took roll call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Johnson/ Tafoya/ unanimous
Abstain: Visscher and Wriedt

3.1 Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of August 6, 2025.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE – PROJECT RESULTS UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation on the North Monterey County Safe Routes to School Plan and the results of the participatory budgeting election that identified priority bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements around schools.

Ariadne Sambrano, Transportation Planner, reported that the North County Safe Routes to School Plan was developed through a two-year process to identify barriers and opportunities for walking and biking to ten public schools. She noted that a participatory budgeting election, led by a community and steering committee, directed \$1,000,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds toward the most urgent bike and pedestrian safety projects across five communities: Pajaro, Las Lomas, Prunedale, Echo Valley/Elkhorn, and Castroville.

Ms. Sambrano noted that the process began with a series of walking and biking audits at all ten schools to better understand current conditions. She noted that parents, students and community members contributed their perspectives through surveys and mapping activities, identifying barriers that prevent safe walking and biking. She noted that the project selection process itself was carried out through a community election designed to be accessible and inclusive. Bilingual outreach efforts, including posters, flyers, social media, and school-based events like Dia del Nino, helped spread the word and encourage participation.

In conclusion, Ms. Sambrano noted that the outcome of this election resulted in projects focused on bicycle and pedestrian improvements around schools, filling critical infrastructure gaps with new sidewalks, bike lanes, crossings, and traffic calming features. She noted that these community-chosen projects will improve safety for students, reduce traffic congestion around school sites, and encourage more families to choose walking and biking as part of their daily routines.

The Committee had the following comments and input on the North County Safe Routes to School Plan:

- Consider high visibility curb extensions in Castroville
- Consider sidewalks and shoulders on rural streets like Elkhorn Road and Castroville Road
- Consider a bus shelter and sidewalks on Hall Road
- Consider traffic lights on Hall Road to slow down the speed of cars and streetlights to provide a visible right of way for pedestrians crossing
- Consider streetlights for students walking to a future bus shelter

5. **E-BIKES REGULATIONS AND RESOURCES**

The Committee received a presentation about E-bikes regulations and resources.

Janneke Strause, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that electric bicycles make riding accessible to more people. She noted that they allow cyclists to ride further and faster with less effort, making commuting by bicycle easier, especially in a hilly environment. Ms. Strause noted that they allow people with varying physical abilities to ride a bike rather than drive. E-bikes allow people to more easily commit to eco-friendly transportation by hauling multiple children more easily or picking up groceries on the way home from work. She noted that E-biking is a low-emission form of transportation and with more people riding e-bikes, fewer people are driving cars.

Ms. Strause noted that all classes of Electric Bicycles, as defined by California Vehicle Code Section 312.5, are permitted on all Class I Multiuse Paths such as the Monterey Coastal Trail. She noted that this change now allows Class III Bikes on the Monterey Coastal Trail. Ms. Strause noted that as the number of e-bikes riders increases, the number of collisions involving e-bikes has also increased. Legislation has been proposed to improve e-bike safety, including prohibiting persons under the age of 16 from riding and prohibiting speed modifiers. She noted that in addition to targeting illegal electric motorcycles, California bicycle advocates ask to prioritize safety education.

The Committee had the following comments and input on the E-bikes regulations:

- Consider more speed enforcement on trails
- Consider placing signage with proper etiquette and rules
- Consider DMV licensing and requiring users to pass a test before buying an e-bike
- Consider more safety education

6. REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES UPDATE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Committee received an update on the Regional Surface Transportation Program and recommended up to three committee members to join a Guidelines Update Subcommittee.

Janneke Strause, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds are distributed to eligible agencies on a three-year cycle through the Transportation Agency's Competitive Grant Program. She noted that the next cycle of the Competitive Grant Program is in 2026 and the 2026 RSTP Guidelines will be brought to the TAMC Board for approval in March. She noted that Agency staff are requesting two or three members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee to join the subcommittee.

The following Committee representatives volunteered to serve on the RSTP subcommittee.

1. Brian McMinn
2. Jeff Wriedt
3. DL Johnson

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

Committee member DL Johnson discussed the need for bike routes in Carmel Valley Village.

Nathalie Flores announced that Monterey-Salinas Transit broke ground on the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project. She noted that some streets will be closed and there will be limited bike trail access, and MST is working on flyers that will show the closure.

Liesbeth Visscher announced that the city of Marina will be celebrating the 50th anniversary on October 18, 2025.

Mari Lynch announced the Salinas and King City Ciclovía this month.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Novo adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.