

TAMC Board Meeting 2/25/26

Unanswered Questions on Spending Millions of Taxpayer Funds

TAMC Board Members,

At last month's Board meeting, Todd confirmed that funds were currently being spent by Caltrans on final design of Phase 1 "hybrid" roundabouts on Hwy 68, while the AI Adaptive system is being evaluated. What remains unanswered is the exact amount, which is estimated to still be \$3-5 million even with Caltrans "reducing their efforts". Todd was asked by Bruce Delgado to produce a **memo or add an agenda item to define the exact expenditures**, so the Board and the Public know how much money will be spent on the roundabouts that may be wasted if AI Adaptive proves to perform better than roundabouts in overall commute times. I saw nothing on today's agenda, so when will that request be honored? I sent an email to Todd and Caltrans asking that exact question but have not received a reply.

The other point that needs an answer is **exactly what is the deadline date for the next round of SB1 grant cycles** that is being used as a reason to continue to spend major money on Phase 1 and exactly what needs to be completed before that deadline. I asked Todd and Caltrans that question as well and still no answer. This premise is continually being used as a justification for spending millions but with no specific date noted. So, what is the actual date?

The other unanswered question that the Board needs to ask is why millions are being spent on final design of the "hybrid" roundabouts in Phase 1 that have **not even been tested for performance on Hwy 68** to show their **actual impact** on the peak commute times. Remember, these modified 2-lane roundabouts were suddenly substituted for the single lane design that was studied and promoted to the public in the draft EIR but **their performance was never defined**. How much if any improvement will they make over the tested performance of the single lane design that produced an alleged 5-minute reduction of PM peak commute and 0 minutes reduction in the AM peak commute, while increasing emergency response times? I have asked Todd and Caltrans for any computer simulation test results for these newly introduced designs but have not received any answers. **Why have they not been tested?** I also asked Caltrans and Todd for **any example of a series of roundabouts anywhere in the world, in a similar application, that produced measured reduction in peak commute** and have yet to receive an answer.

Caltrans did acknowledge that studies have shown that these 2-lane roundabouts do produce a **62% increase in accidents** over the signalized intersections they replace. These crashes can be significant as shown by a crash this January in the 2-lane roundabout on SR 156, near Hollister, that resulted in **significant vehicular damage and a fatality**.

As a taxpayer I am asking the Board, as you monitor and decide the best use of taxpayer funds, to immediately ask and obtain answers to these questions:

1. **How much will Caltrans spend on final design for Phase 1 while the AI Adaptive system is being thoroughly evaluated?**
2. **What is the exact date of the next SB1 grant cycle and what is the date of the next cycle after that?**
3. **What are the measured performance data for the newly introduced “hybrid” 2-lane roundabouts for the peak and non-peak commutes on the Hwy 68 corridor?**
4. **What actual series of roundabouts installed anywhere in the world, in a similar application, have produced any measured peak commute reduction and what was that reduction?**
5. **What is the current accident history at the 9 intersections on Hwy 68 and what is the published historical accident data for single lane versus 2-lane roundabouts?**

It is difficult for the Public to accept unnecessary spending of millions of taxpayer funds without defining exactly why and **base those decisions on currently defined facts** instead of hopeful feelings or personal preferences. **I ask the Board to act now in obtaining answers to these critical questions and to put a hold on spending until the AI Adaptive is thoroughly tested.**

Dwight Stump