

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**June 25, 2014 Meeting**

#### **A NEW MEMBER WELCOMED TO THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE. MORE MEMBERS NEEDED.**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County welcomes a new member to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Bernard Green, a student at CSUMB, has been selected to serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee representing the City of Marina, following his nomination by Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado. Bernard is an enthusiastic bike advocate, a certified instructor with the League of American Bicyclists, and the founder and Executive Director of the Monterey Bicycle Project. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee advises agency staff on bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues and makes recommendations to the agency Board. Committee vacancies remain for Monterey County District 3, and the cities Sand City, Greenfield, Gonzales, King City and Soledad. Individuals interested in serving on the committee should contact their local representatives or agency staff directly.

#### **SURVEY SAYS: PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION IN MONTEREY COUNTY IMPROVING**

Public opinion about transportation issues in Monterey County is getting better, but there is still work to do. Survey results were presented to the TAMC Board on Wednesday, and nearly half of those polled said things are generally on the right track in Monterey County, an improvement over prior years. However, things could be better say respondents, and almost three-quarters of those polled support more funding for transportation improvements in Monterey County. Voters are especially interested in a transportation plan that includes safety and road maintenance, with widespread support also going to improved transit services and making communities more walkable. The full survey results presentation can be found on the agency's What's New webpage at <http://tamcmonterey.org/new/index.html>.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD: TAMC APPROVES TWENTY YEAR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Transportation Agency finalized its plan to address Monterey County's transportation needs over the next 20 years. On Wednesday, the TAMC Board approved an update to the 20 year Regional Transportation Plan. The plan identifies \$4.4 billion in prioritized funding for transportation needs in Monterey County over the next 20 years. The Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan is updated every four years, and this time in coordination with AMBAG as part of developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Monterey Bay Area. The Transportation Agency encourages Monterey County residents to review the Regional Transportation Plan and to share their opinion about the transportation needs in Monterey

County. The Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan is available online at the agency's website, [www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/rtp](http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/rtp).

**TAMC AND CALTRANS WORKING TOGETHER TO STUDY A POSSIBLE  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR HIGHWAY 156**

Improving Highway 156 between Castroville and Prunedale is top priority for TAMC, and on Wednesday, the TAMC Board approved an agreement with Caltrans to study the feasibility of a public-private partnership to help deliver the needed improvements. The Highway 156 Corridor Project will construct a new four-lane highway parallel to the existing Highway 156 with new interchanges constructed at Castroville Boulevard and U.S. 101. The current two-lane highway will become a county road for local traffic. The Highway 156 Corridor Project has completed preliminary design and environmental review, but lack of available funding is preventing the project from being built. Recognizing the funding challenges, TAMC and Caltrans have agreed to study whether partnering with a private entity could help find the funding needed to build the project sooner rather than later. Such public-private partnerships are common across the United States, although not as common in California. Wednesday's action by the TAMC Board represents the first step in the process of studying whether a public-private partnership could help deliver the needed safety and operational improvements to Highway 156. For more information about the Highway 156 Corridor Project and public-private partnerships in California and nationally, please visit <http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/hwyproj/hwy156.html>.