



## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**February 25, 2026**

#### **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence Awards**

The Transportation Agency presented their 24th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor community members, programs, and projects that made a significant contribution to improving transportation networks in Monterey County.

This year's awards honorees are:

- Individual: James Herrera, Reporter, Monterey Herald, was recognized for his coverage of transportation related projects and programs for the daily newspaper; most notably for his continuous coverage of two regional Measure X funded projects, the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Canyon Del Rey segment in the cities of Del Rey Oaks and Seaside and the Imjin Parkway Widening and Roundabout Project in the City of Marina.
- Program: "Safe Routes to School North County Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee" made up of residents and community advocates in the communities of Aromas, Castroville, Las Lomas, and Prunedale. The Steering Committee worked with Safe Routes to School program partners Center for Community Advocacy, Ecology Action, Monterey County Health Department, Monterey County Public Works Facilities & Parks Department, and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, to identify barriers to safe access for eleven public schools across North Monterey County.

Steering Committee members presented their recommendations for projects on North Monterey County Unified School District property to the district's Board of Directors and the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors and successfully got both Boards to approve their recommendations in October 2025. The Transportation Agency Board of Directors

subsequently approved Measure X and Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to implement the Safe Routes to school projects in North Monterey County.

- Project: The Bardin Road Safe Routes to School Improvements Project, The City of Salinas, Kimley-Horn & Associates, MNS Engineers, and the Don Chapin Company were recognized for the project's design to improve vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to Bardin Elementary School. Funded through the Active Transportation Program and Measure X, the project addressed safety concerns around Bardin Elementary School, where limited crosswalks and the absence of bicycle facilities previously forced families to share space with fast-moving vehicles.

Collectively, the safety improvements and enhancements transformed Bardin Road from a barrier into a connected multimodal corridor that supports neighborhood-to-neighborhood and school-to-community connectivity.

Board comments after the ceremony include the following:

"I think that it's really important that we all recognize that it's not just the process and outcomes that we highlighted today, but the fact that kids in our community are watching their parents and grandparents participate and be a part of the solutions, rather than just sitting at home and saying I wish someone would. You are doing and that's the important piece that is going to reverberate through that community for a long time to come." – Chris Lopez, Supervisor, District 3

"Ultimately, what I see here is that most of the times the Board looks at Excel documents, budget items, and so on, and today we are actually seeing the people. And ultimately, that's what I want to recognize." – Chaps Poduri, TAMC Chair

Summaries of each honoree and their achievements are available on the TAMC website:

- <https://www.tamcmonterey.org/>

### **Safe Routes to School & Safe Streets Together Monterey County Campaign**

The Measure X Safe Routes to Schools Program has supported safer walking and bicycling for youth and families across Monterey County since 2018, building a foundation of community-based safety education and infrastructure needs. Building on this work, the Monterey County Vision Zero Plan is now being developed to identify and prioritize the projects and programs needed to eliminate severe and fatal traffic crashes countywide. Safe Streets Together Monterey County serves as the public-facing safety campaign that will help implement the Vision Zero Plan, reinforcing Safe Routes

to Schools goals and advancing countywide safety policies through education, outreach, and behavior-change messaging.

The three initiatives – the Monterey County Vision Zero Action Plan, the Measure X Safe Routes to School Program, and the Safe Streets Together Monterey County campaign – are all key components of a comprehensive approach to prevent severe injuries and fatalities. Together, they provide the policy framework, infrastructure investments, and community-focused behavior-change tools needed to create safer streets for all.

### **TAMC Board Authorizes the Transfer of Project Funding and Implementation for the King City Multimodal Transportation Center to the TAMC Rail Program**

The Transportation Agency’s Board of Directors authorized TAMC’s Executive Director to begin discussions with Caltrans and the City of King to transfer project funding and implementation for the King City Multimodal Transportation Center project to the TAMC Rail program.

The authorization came after the City of King requested that TAMC become the project sponsor for the Multimodal Transportation Center project, with the departure of several City staff with many years of experience working on the project. The City of King has secured funding for the project from the State Rail Assistance, Interregional Transportation Improvement Program, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, and Senate Bill 125. Upon Board approval, TAMC staff will coordinate with Caltrans and the City of King to transfer the funding to TAMC to fund project-related planning activities.

The City of King has been planning for the re-establishment of passenger rail service since 2006, including development of the King City Multimodal Transportation Center. The project would be served by Amtrak Coast Starlight in the near term and is included in the 2024 State Rail Plan to be served by four round trips of a new intercity passenger service in the long term.