

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

March 23, 2016

STATE ROUTE 68 SCENIC HIGHWAY PLAN

The Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors received an update on the SR 68 Scenic Highway Plan. The plan will evaluate current and future travel patterns between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula, the feasibility of affordable mid-term operational and capacity improvements in the SR 68 corridor in context to other planned regional improvements, and the potential for wildlife connectivity enhancements.

Throughout the course of the plan, the Agency will actively engage the public and partner agencies in the planning process with a program of public meetings and online outreach efforts. Interactive web-based tools, social media and traditional media outreach will provide the public the opportunity to engage in the process for helping to plan improvements on Highway 68. Participants will be able to participate in the virtual workshop, which will allow them to provide location specific comments about Highway 68.

This plan will provide the data, analysis, and public deliberation necessary to make informed decisions to identify capacity, operational, affordable, and sustainable projects that can be implemented in the scenic Highway 68 corridor over the next twenty years. To learn more about the project and the interactive website, click onto www.sr68sceniccorridorstudy.com.

TAMC SEEKS ADOPTION OF ITS TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

With a unanimous vote, the TAMC Board of Directors finalized the remaining details of their Transportation Safety & Investment Plan and will now seek its adoption by each of the cities and Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

After postponing the decision last month, pending further discussion, the Board approved the selection of the Holman Highway 68 project as the final regional project to be included in the plan. The eleven regional projects approved in the plan are:

Highway and Road Safety

- Highway 68-Salinas to Monterey
- US 101 Safety Improvements-South County
- Castroville Blvd- SR156 Interchange
- Imjin Road/Parkway

- Highway 1-Rapid Busway
- Holman Highway 68-Monterey to Pacific Grove
- Habitat Preservation

Mobility for Youth, Seniors, Working Families:

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Commuter Bus Transit, Salinas Valley Transit Center(s), Vanpools
- Senior Transportation
- FORTAG-regional paved path project

The Board also amended the Plan to reduce the Imjin Road/Parkway by \$5 million and increase the Highway 68 project by \$5 million. Other action taken by the Board includes:

- the authorization to release the Plan to the cities and county for adoption;
- Adoption of the Policies and Project Descriptions and authorization of its release for public review.

The Investment Plan is a crucial part of the Agency's efforts to become a "self-help" county. Gaining this status would give Monterey County the opportunity to compete for federal and state grants for local projects. The proposed 3/8% sales tax will raise approximately \$20 million per year, for a total of \$600 million over 30 years for road repair, safety and mobility improvements. 60% of the funds (est. \$360 million) will be allocated to the cities and County for road repairs and safety projects, and 40% (est. \$240 million) for regional safety and mobility projects.

The Agency will now seek the Plan's adoption from each of the cities and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors over the next two months. The proposed Transportation Safety and Investment Plan must be adopted by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population and then placed on the ballot by the County Board of Supervisors. The proposed November 2016 ballot measure will require at least 2/3rds voter approval to be successful.