

TAMC Board Meeting 1/28/26

Spent Funds Clarity and Support Data Omission

Board Members,

In recent communications with Todd, he indicated that he “misunderstood” a question asked him at the last Board meeting by Bruce Delgado about the \$9.9 million budgeted to be spent on the final design for Phase 1 of the 3 hybrid 2-lane roundabouts on Hwy 68. Bruce’s question was “Will any of the \$9 million, mentioned here, needed to complete the final design, be spent before June 2016?” and Todd’s answer was “NO”. Bruce further clarified by asking “So what we are approving here is not going to result in money spent that some would think were wasted if we don’t end up doing the roundabouts?” and Todd’s answer was “Correct”. In listening to the posted video of the December 3rd meeting (13:36) and looking at the letter that I sent the Board which was the basis for the question, it seemed clear to me that the central concern was spending **any taxpayer money needlessly** and not specific as to technically which funds the spent money was taken from.

Now it turns out that in fact, **Caltrans is spending money on final design before June 2026** and according previous information from the TAMC staff, that could amount to about \$5 million that would potentially be wasted. Todd asked Caltrans to supply more details about the amount of money being spent but no response yet. Todd stated further in an email, that he asked Caltrans to “delay work on the roundabout project pending results of the AI Signal Project as long as the upcoming grant cycle is not put at risk or if project costs are not significantly increased by this delay of work”.

Hopefully Todd can clarify at this meeting (1) the misunderstanding that he had with Bruce’s question on taxpayer funds being spent, (2) how much is Caltrans actually spending on Phase 1 final design before June, and (3) will Caltrans delay their work on the roundabout project, as requested, until the AI Signal project is objectively and thoroughly evaluated?

Hopefully Todd or TAMC staff can also answer the question asked at the last meeting about the “**safety of the proposed Hybrid 2-lane roundabouts**” when faced with the Arizona study of a 62% increase in accidents for 2 lane roundabouts as compared to the signalized intersections that they replaced and the fact that roundabouts on Hwy 68 will significantly increase emergency response times as noted by actual studies done by the Monterey County Fire Chief. This is in direct conflict with the original claim by TAMC that roundabouts will decrease emergency response times.

It further defies logic and the prudent spending of taxpayer money on the Phase 1 hybrid 2-lane roundabouts when they have not even been tested for performance on Hwy 68. The Board should be asking TAMC Staff and Caltrans to supply the data that shows their actual

tested performance. The Board should also ask where in the USA or world have these 2-lane roundabouts been used in a similar busy corridor, where they have resulted in a measurable reduction in peak commute times. How can the Board ignore this lack of actual data and continue on the path to spend over \$360 Million (based on current listed budget) on this roundabout project, that was based on many claims that have now been proven false or misleading and **without any concrete proof that they will have any positive impact on the Hwy 68 peak commute.**

I keep asking Caltrans and TAMC staff in numerous emails (which I would be happy to supply any interested Board Member) to show me where I am wrong and to supply actual data to support their position but I continue to receive nothing. The public deserves better stewardship of their taxpayer funds and with decisions that will impact their commute long term.

Thank you,

Dwight Stump