

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**August 23, 2017**

#### **TAMC Awards \$6.62 Million in Competitive Grants to Cities/County**

The TAMC Board of Directors approved \$6.62 million in the Transportation Agency's 2017 competitive grants program. The grants were given to fund six city/county projects in Monterey County that improve safety, provide maintenance for existing facilities, or support the development of a multimodal transportation network utilizing the principles of Complete Streets.

The projects receiving funding are:

- Monterey - North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Improvements - \$1,933,000
- Soledad - Metz Road Traffic Calming Project - \$516,800
- County - State Route 1 Climbing Lane - \$600,000
- Salinas - Downtown Complete Streets - \$2,970,000
- Marina - Reservation Road Roundabouts - \$100,000
- Pacific Grove - Highway 68 Complete Street Corridor - \$502,268

The Transportation Agency received thirteen completed grant applications, totaling over \$14.3 million in June. Each application was reviewed and scored by selection committee; and after considering the scores and factoring in geographic equity and cost effectiveness, the six selected projects were recommended for grant funding.

#### **Initial Highway 156 Tolling Study Reveals a \$295 Million Funding Gap**

The TAMC Board of Directors received an initial overview of the Highway 156 Tolling Study. The study's report is scheduled to be released for the TAMC Boards' October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The overview presented by agency staff and the consultant team included an explanation of how travel demand and the revenue from tolling are estimated; how the financial feasibility analysis evaluating the feasibility of funding construction, operating costs and lifecycle costs for a toll facility are calculated; and an assessment of the projected diversion rates to local roads as well as roadway and intersection operational impacts for the project study area.

That study was conducted to determine the feasibility of collecting tolls to deliver funding the "Monterey Expressway," a new four-lane highway, that would run parallel to

the existing Highway 156. The existing Highway 156 would be converted to a frontage road providing access to the local community.

The latest cost estimate for the project is \$365 million. Currently \$70 million has been secured or pledged. Facing a \$295 million funding gap, the Transportation Agency Board of Directors approved a consulting contract in November 2015 to conduct an in-depth evaluation of tolling as an option to deliver the project.

### **TAMC Board Approves Recommended Concept for SR 68 Scenic Highway Plan**

The Transportation Agency's Board of Directors approved option Concept 1 of the SR 68 Scenic Highway Plan during their meeting on Wednesday. Option 1 of the feasibility study to determine safety and congestion relief improvements for Highway 68 includes the installation of roundabouts at major intersections with modifications to accommodate the future development of Ferrini Ranch. The modifications would include:

- A roundabout at New Torero Drive;
- Widening the highway near the new intersection; and
- Study highway widening at Corral de Tierra and San Benancio.

With the approval of Concept 1 for the feasibility study, the Transportation Agency will now work with Caltrans to develop the project with the modifications for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review.

More information about the study can be found at [www.SR68ScenicCorridorStudy.com](http://www.SR68ScenicCorridorStudy.com).