

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**

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

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**March 25, 2020**



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**TAMC Board of Directors Convenes Virtual Meeting**

In response to Governor Newsom Executive Order on March 12, 2020, which enhances State and Local Governments' ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health; and specifically allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference, the TAMC Board meeting was held via a Zoom conference call.

The meeting was accessible electronically and members of the public were encouraged to download the app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instructions for use of the Zoom app was also provided: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>

As Board Chair Alejo convened the meeting, he asked for patience and said that this would probably become the norm for some time. At the end of the meeting, he noted that the meeting via teleconferencing allows the Board to continue to do the people's work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**TAMC Board Certifies Final FORTAG Final Environmental Document**

The TAMC Board of Directors took several actions that will allow the Transportation Agency to advance the development of the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project.

During the meeting, the Board:

- certified the Final Environmental Impact Report
- adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
- adopted the findings in the compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21081 and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15091; and,

- approved the Master Agreement between the partnering agencies defining roles and responsibilities for construction and maintenance for the proposed 28-mile FORTAG project.

As a result of these actions, the Transportation Agency will submit their allocation request of \$1.8 million for grants secured through the leveraging of local Measure X funds to the California Transportation Commission. These grants will be used for the design/engineering and right-of-way acquisition for phase 1 of the Canyon Del Rey/State Route 218 segment of the proposed 28-mile project. The total amount for the entire phase of the Canyon Del Rey/State Route 218 segment is expected to be \$11 million in grant funds, leveraged by \$2.4 million of Measure X funds.

The FORTAG project proposes to construct a continuous 12-foot wide paved bicycle and pedestrian trails that will connect the Monterey Peninsula cities from the existing Monterey Bay Coastal Trail to the California State Monterey Bay University campus through the former Fort Ord open space area.

The full environmental impact report is available at [www.tamcmonterey.org/measure-x/programs-projects/fort-ord-regional-trail-greenway/](http://www.tamcmonterey.org/measure-x/programs-projects/fort-ord-regional-trail-greenway/).

The Master Agreement is between the Transportation Agency, the County of Monterey, the cities of Seaside, Marina, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, California State University, Monterey Bay, University of Santa Cruz, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

### **TAMC Board Authorizes a Call for Projects for Competitive Grant Funds**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors approved the release of an estimated \$12.2 million in competitive grant funds for transportation projects over the next three years. The projects competing for these funds will be based on a variety of criteria, including safety, traffic volume and project deliverability. With the Board's authorization, the Transportation Agency will begin a new grant cycle, with the release of grant applications materials.

Funding for the competitive grants includes \$9.36 million of Regional Surface Transportation Program funding, \$750,000 of Transportation Development Act 2% funds, and potentially an additional \$2.1 million to be funded with any deprogrammed funds from the last competitive grants cycle.