



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

May 25, 2022

TAMC Board Receives Updates on FORTAG and US 101 South of Salinas Projects

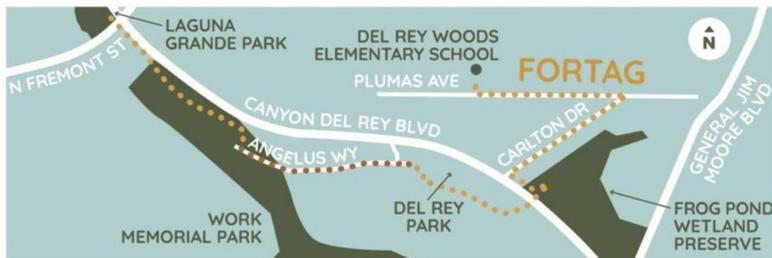
The TAMC Board of Directors received updates on the Canyon Del Rey segment of Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project and on the US 101 South of Salinas project. Both are regional projects included in the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan (Measure X) approved by Monterey County voters in 2016.



Canyon Del Rey Segment

The vision for the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project is to create a multimodal route designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities that connects communities in and around the former Fort Ord to each other and to education, employment, community, and recreation centers.

The Canyon Del Rey segment of the project will serve as a safe pedestrian and bicycle corridor connecting the Del Rey Woods elementary school with the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, Work Memorial park, and Laguna Grande Regional Park.



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Here are the highlights of the presentation:

- The Canyon Del Rey trail segment is currently in final design and has incorporated several modifications to the project in response to feedback from Del Rey Oaks residents to further reduce impacts that do not result in safety or security issues.
- The Cities of Del Rey Oaks and Seaside and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District have signed a Master Agreement that supports the current alignment and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access that the project will provide to the Frog Pond. The agreement also incorporates the findings of the certified environmental impact report that found that the project will not harm sensitive habitat in the Frog Pond Preserve.
- After extensive analysis, the project team reaffirmed the findings from the environmental document that the alternative alignment along State Route 218 is not the safest option and further determined that the State Route 218 alternative would necessitate the reclaiming of public right-of-way along residential backyards, the removal of at least 160 trees, and result in a significantly higher cost due to the installation of large retaining walls and upgrades that would be required to State Route 218.
- The trail includes 9 Improvements based on community feedback:
 1. Modified entry to the Safeway Parking lot
 2. Added seating plaza in Work Memorial Park
 3. Resurfaced tennis courts
 4. Incorporated trail into the Butterfly Garden
 5. Modified the undercrossing at State Route 218 from Del Rey Park
 6. Modified Carlton Drive at State Route 218
 7. Modified Carlton Drive corridor
 8. Modified parking nodes on Carlton Drive
 9. Added tree protections on Carlton Drive

Despite the compromises already made to the project and outreach efforts to listen to the community, a group of Del Rey Oaks citizens collected enough signatures to have a ballot initiative placed on the June 7, 2022, election to restrict bicycle trails in Del Rey Oaks to State Route 218, General Jim Moore Boulevard, and South Boundary Road.

Pending the results of the June 7th elections, final design and right-of-way certification are anticipated for completion by Spring 2023, and construction is scheduled to start thereafter.

Map website: [FORTAG – State Route 218 / Canyon Del Rey Segment Map](#)

Project website: <https://www.fortag-canyondelrey.com/>



US 101 South of Salinas

The US 101 South of Salinas project will improve safety for residents, travelers, and agricultural employees while improving traffic flow along 5.5 miles of US 101 from Airport Boulevard to the Main Street Overcrossing in Chualar. US 101 is the primary artery along the Central Coast and is vital to statewide commerce.

This busy corridor provides access from California's Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country and provides a link from Southern California to the tourist destinations along the Monterey Peninsula. It is projected that South County will be the fastest growing region in Monterey County, with an estimated growth of 35% by 2035; as noted by King City Mayor Mike LeBarre, "That means more traffic, more vehicle miles traveled, and really highlights the importance of getting this done faster."

Agency staff conducted extensive public outreach last year for the US 101 South of Salinas project; and community input has led to several changes in the proposed scope of work for the project. The importance of the robust outreach and community engagement conducted was praised by District 3 Supervisor Chris Lopez, King City Mayor Mike LeBarre, and community members Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau, and Jayne Smith, US 101 Traffic Safety Alliance. Here are the highlights of the presentation:

Conclusion:

- Construct no new additional interchanges or flyover structures
- Reconstruct the Abbot Street interchange
- Upgrade the interchange at Main Street in Chualar
- Build frontage roads adjacent to the US 101 corridor
- Upgrade interchanges and frontage roads first
- Fix the storm water flooding issue
- Look for early wins

At the conclusion of the presentation, Todd Muck, TAMC Executive Director, announced that Congressman Panetta has nominated an early element of this project for a \$1 million Community Project Funding in the federal transportation appropriation bill for fiscal year 2023. If enacted, this funding would help the US 101 Auxiliary Lane project from Spence Road to Eckhardt Road go to construction next year.

Project website: <https://www.tamcmonterey.org/us-101-south-of-salinas-project-website>