



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

Executive Committee

Members are: Wendy Askew, Chair; Chaps Poduri, 1st Vice Chair; Luis Alejo, 2nd Vice Chair; Chris Lopez, Past Chair; Glenn Church, County Representative; Jose Rios, City Representative

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

****9:00 AM****

MEETING LOCATION

Voting members must attend a physical meeting location to count towards quorum

*55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901
Transportation Agency Conference Room*

Alternate Locations with Zoom Connection Open to the Public

*2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933
Supervisor Askew's Office*

*168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, California 93901
Supervisor Alejo's Office*

*599 El Camino Real, Greenfield, 93927
Supervisor Chris Lopez's Office*

*147 Fourth Street, Gonzales, California 93926
Mayor Jose Rios's Office*

Members of the public & non-voting members may join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83973622750?pwd=esaxn0K5Z4Rx2ppjC8D98QR6koK1Ae.1>

OR

[Via teleconference at +1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833)

Meeting ID: 839 7362 2750 Passcode: 890011

If you join the meeting by phone and would like to make a public comment on an item, please dial *9 to raise your hand.

Please note: If all committee members are present in person, public participation by Zoom is for convenience only and is not required by law. If the Zoom feed is lost for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted, but the meeting may continue at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make an inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. QUORUM CHECK - CALL TO ORDER

Call to order and self-introductions. If you are unable to attend, please contact Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Board on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Board for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00 pm the Monday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Board before the meeting.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

3.1. APPROVE Executive Committee draft minutes of March 5, 2025.

- Elouise Rodriguez

4. RECEIVE update on state and federal legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors adopt positions on proposed legislation.

- Christina Watson, Ariadne Sambrano

Staff and consultants will present updates on state and federal legislative activities and present proposed positions on draft legislation.

5. **RECEIVE** report on the draft agenda for the April 23, 2025, TAMC Board meeting.

- Todd Muck

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS**

7. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Executive Committee meeting:

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA 93901

A quorum of voting members is required to be present to hold this meeting.

There will be a zoom link for hybrid participation by members of the public.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Elouise Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board & Senior Administrative Assistant

Elouise@tamcmonterey.org

Important Meeting Information

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

www.tamcmonterey.org

55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901

TEL: 831-775-0903

EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon five (5) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Board may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any support papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

Memorandum

To: Executive Committee
From: Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant & Clerk of the Board
Meeting Date: April 2, 2025
Subject: Executive Committee Draft Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE Executive Committee draft minutes of March 5, 2025.

SUMMARY:**FINANCIAL IMPACT:****DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Exec draft minutes March 5 2025

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

DRAFT MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY COUNTY
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members: Wendy Root Askew (Chair), Chaps Poduri (1st Vice Chair),
Luis Alejo (2nd Vice Chair), Chris Lopez (Past Chair),
Glenn Church (County representative), Jose Rios (City representative)*

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

*** 9:00 a.m. ***

Transportation Agency Conference Room, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA

Alternate locations:

2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933

599 El Camino Real, Greenfield, 93927

168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, California 93901

147 Fourth Street, Gonzales, California 93926

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	APR 24	MAY 24	JUN 24	AUG 24	SEP 24	OCT 24	NOV 24	JAN 25	FEB 25	MAR 25
Wendy Root Askew, Chair Supervisor District 4, (Yuri Anderson, Eric Mora)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)
Chaps Poduri, 1st Vice Chair Pacific Grove (Joe Amelio)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (VC)	P
Luis Alejo, 2nd Vice Chair Supervisor District 1, (Linda Gonzales; Javier Gomez)	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P
Chris Lopez, Past Chair Supervisor District 3 (Priscilla Barba)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P	E	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Glenn Church, County Representative Supervisor District 2, (Marilyn Vierra, Leonie Gray)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P	*P(A)) (VC)	P
Jose Rios, City Representative , Gonzales (Lorraine Worthy)	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	*P (VC)	P (VC)

P = Present

*= New Representative

(VC) Video Conference

A = Absent

E = Excused

TC = Teleconference

P(A) = Alternate present

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Poduri called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Kise, Muck, Rodriguez, Sambrano, Watson and Zeller.

Others present: Shane Strong, TAMC Counsel; Linda Gonzales and Jasmine Mejia Cortez, District 1 Office; Monica Hale, District 3 Office; Margaret D'Arrigo, Salinas; Carl Sedoryk, MST; Gus Khouri & Mitch Weiss, Khouri Consulting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Committee Member Rios and seconded by Committee Member Lopez, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the consent agenda:

Approved the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of February 7, 2025.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On a motion by Committee Member Alejo and seconded by Committee Member Poduri, the Committee voted 6-0 to recommend the TAMC Board of Directors adopt positions on proposed legislation, as follows:

- AB 259 (Rubio): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences - SUPPORT
- AB 761 (Addis): Monterey-Salinas District: retail Transactions and use tax - SUPPORT
- AB 891 (Zbur): Transportation: Quick-Build Project Pilot Program - SUPPORT
- SB 71 (Wiener): California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transit projects - SUPPORT
- SB 239 (Arreguín): Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body - SUPPORT

Gus Khouri, Agency Legislative Consultant, presented an update on state legislative activities and Ariadne Sambrano, Agency staff, presented an update on federal legislative activities.

Gus reported that the legislators had a bill introduction deadline of February 21, noting that he went over 2,500 bills to put together the draft bill matrix, which will be added to as bills are further developed. He noted that Chair Askew would be attending a legislative day with the Central Coast Coalition on March 19 in Sacramento.

Ariadne Sambrano, Transportation Planner, reported that the Trump Administration has introduced significant policy changes affecting federal transportation funding, including the suspension of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

funds. These shifts prioritize projects in communities with high marriage and birth rates, require compliance with federal immigration enforcement, and emphasize economic justification over social and environmental considerations. The President revoked prior United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) orders related to equity, climate adaptation, and environmental justice.

5. TAMC BOARD DRAFT AGENDA

Todd Muck, Executive Director, reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of March 26, 2025. After Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Salinas Sidewalk Art Project Update
- Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project Update

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Poduri adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Memorandum

To: Executive Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning, Ariadne Sambrano, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: April 2, 2025
Subject: **Legislative Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on state and federal legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors adopt positions on proposed legislation.

SUMMARY:

Staff and consultants will present updates on state and federal legislative activities and present proposed positions on draft legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Proposed legislation could impact transportation funding availability.

DISCUSSION:

Agency state legislative analysts Gus Khouri and Mitch Weiss will present an update on state legislative activities and staff will present an update on federal legislative activities.

Attachment 1 is an updated bill list. Changes from what was presented to the Board in March are indicated by cross-out or underline. Bills the Committee may want to recommend the Board take positions on are as follows:

- AB 975 (Gallagher): California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: culverts and bridges - this bill would expedite culvert and bridge projects. Staff recommends adopting a "support" position.
- AB 1058 (Gonzalez): Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax: suspension of tax - this bill would negatively impact funding available for transportation projects. Staff recommends adopting an "oppose" position.
- AB 1070 (Ward): Transit districts: governing boards: compensation: nonvoting members - this bill would prohibit a transit district from compensating a member of the governing board unless the member demonstrates personal use of the transit system. MST has asked TAMC to adopt an "oppose" position on this bill.

Attachment 2 is a federal legislative update that reviews various federal activities that may impact transportation projects and funding.

Staff and consultants will give verbal updates at the meeting.

The 2025 adopted TAMC legislative program is online as a **web attachment**.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. State Bill List
2. Federal Legislative update

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

[TAMC 2025 Legislative Program](#)

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 12 (Wallis) Low-carbon fuel standard: regulations	2/18/25 Assembly Natural Resources	This bill would void amendments to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations adopted by the California Air Resources Board on November 8, 2024, which would prevent the increase to gas prices.	Watch Priority 1S
AB 39 (Zbur) General Plans: Local Electrification Planning Act	2/26/25 Assembly Local Government	This bill, the Local Electrification Planning Act, would require a local jurisdiction to prepare and adopt a specified plan, or integrate a plan in the next adoption or revision of the general plan, that includes the identification of opportunities to expand electric vehicle charging and includes policies and implementation measures that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, low-income households, and small businesses for equitable and prioritized investments in zero-emission technologies that directly benefit these groups.	Watch Priority 5S
AB 259 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	2/10/25 Assembly Local Government	This bill removes the January 1, 2026, sunset under the Brown Act for local agencies to use teleconferencing as an option for participation, thus extending the current practice of hybrid meetings indefinitely.	SUPPORT Priority 16S
AB 289 (Haney) State highway: work zone speed safety program	2/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would authorize Caltrans to establish a speed safety system pilot program for speed enforcement in state highway construction or maintenance areas. The bill would require Caltrans to adopt written guidelines and would require Caltrans, in developing the guidelines, to consult with the California Highway Patrol and other relevant stakeholder organizations.	Watch Priority 9S

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 761 (Addis) Monterey-Salinas District: retail Transactions and use tax	3/3/25 Assembly Local Government	This bill allows the Monterey-Salinas Transit District, upon the affirmative vote of 2/3 of its board, to submit a sales tax measure for ¼ cent before January 1, 2035. The measure exempts this tax from the 2% limit for sales taxes.	SUPPORT Priority 17S
AB 830 (Rogers) State highways: encroachment permits	2/20/25 Assembly Rules	Current law requires an encroachment permit issued to a jurisdiction that is authorized by law to establish or maintain any works or facilities in, under, or over any public highway, to contain a provision that, in the event the future improvement of the highway necessitates the relocation or removal of the encroachment, the permittee will relocate or remove the encroachment at the permittee’s sole expense. This bill would exempt a public utility district from the above-described provision and instead would require Caltrans to bear the sole expense of relocating or removing the public utility district’s encroachment in the event a future improvement of the highway necessitates the relocation or removal of the encroachment.	Watch Priority 11S
AB 891 (Zbur) Transportation: Quick-Build Project Pilot Program	3/3/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would establish the Quick-Build Project Pilot Program within Caltrans' maintenance program to expedite development and implementation of low-cost projects on the state highway system. The bill would require Caltrans to develop and publish guidance for the deployment of district quick-build projects. The bill would require Caltrans to identify and commit to funding a minimum of 6 quick-build projects statewide.	SUPPORT Priority 14S

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 902 (Schultz) Transportation planning and programming: barriers to wildlife movement	2/20/25 Introduced	This bill would require a regional transportation plan or sustainable communities strategy to identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and natural landscape areas that are partially or fully within the region of the MPO or RTPA, and consider the impacts of development and the barriers caused by transportation infrastructure and development to wildlife and habitat connectivity.	Watch Priority N/A
AB 939 (Schultz) The Safe, Sustainable, Traffic-Reducing Transportation Bond Act of 2026	2/22/25 Introduced	This bill would enact the Safe, Sustainable, Traffic-Reducing Transportation Bond Act of 2026 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$20 billion pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance transit and passenger rail improvements, local streets and roads and active transportation projects, zero-emission vehicle investments, transportation freight infrastructure improvements, and grade separations and other critical safety improvements. The bill would provide for the submission of the bond act to the voters at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election.	Watch Priority 3S
AB 954 (Bennett) STIP: bicycle highway pilot program	2/21/25 Introduced	This bill would require Caltrans to prepare a proposal for the development, including the selection of sites for a pilot program establishing branded networks of bicycle highways that are numbered and signed within 2 of California’s major metropolitan areas. The bill would require Caltrans to include the proposal in the draft ITIP and would require Caltrans to perform all other actions necessary for the pilot program to be programmed in the STIP.	Watch Priority 14 S
AB 975 (Gallagher) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: culverts and bridges	2/20/20 Introduced	<u>Provides an exemption from CEQA for those projects or actions taken for the installation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of culverts and those projects or actions taken for the repair or replacement of a bridge spanning 200 feet or less.</u>	SUPPORT Priority 11S

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 1058 (Gonzalez) Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax: suspension of tax	2/21/25 Introduced	This bill would suspend the imposition of the tax on motor vehicle fuels for one year. This bill would direct the Controller to transfer an amount equal to the amount collected in the 2023-24 fiscal year, adjusted for inflation, from the General Fund to the Motor Vehicle Fuel Account in the Transportation Tax Fund.	<u>OPPOSE</u> Watch Priority 1S
AB 1070 (Ward) <u>Transit districts: governing boards: compensation: nonvoting members</u>	<u>3/17/25</u> <u>Assembly Local Government & Transportation</u>	<u>This bill would prohibit a transit district from compensating a member of the governing board unless the member demonstrates personal use of the transit system. The bill would require the governing board of a transit district to include 2 nonvoting members and 4 alternate nonvoting members. The bill would authorize the chair of the governing board of a transit district to exclude these nonvoting members from meetings discussing negotiations with labor organizations. MST has asked TAMC to adopt an “oppose” position on this bill.</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u> Priority 17S
AB 1132 (Schiavo) Caltrans: climate change vulnerability assessment	2/21/25 Introduced	Caltrans developed 12 district-based Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment reports designed to provide Caltrans with a comprehensive database to help in evaluating, mitigating, and adapting to the effects of increasing extreme weather events on the state transportation system. This bill would require Caltrans to identify key community resilience indicators for measuring the impacts of climate-induced transportation disruptions. The bill would require Caltrans, to include in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment reports an evaluation of the broader social and economic impacts on communities connected to the evaluated infrastructure risks.	Watch Priority N/A

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 71 (Wiener) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transit projects	1/29/25 Senate Environmental Quality and Transportation	This bill would indefinitely extend CEQA exemptions for active transportation plans, restriping on streets and highways, bicycle parking, signage, and storage, transit projects, and transit planning	SUPPORT Priority 14S
SB 73 (Cervantes) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions	<u>3/7/2025</u> Senate Environmental Quality	<u>CEQA exempts from its requirements certain residential, employment center, and mixed-use development projects meeting specified criteria, including that the project is located in a transit priority area and that the project is undertaken and is consistent with a specific plan for which an environmental impact report has been certified. This bill would exempt projects located in a very low vehicle travel area. The bill would require that the project is consistent with either a specific plan or a community plan for which an EIR has been certified within the preceding 15 years. The bill would require the project site to have been previously developed or to be a vacant site.</u>	<u>Watch</u> <u>Priority 11S</u>
SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body	2/14/25 Senate Local Government and Judiciary	This bill is a Brown Act bill that would allow for subsidiary bodies of a local agency to use teleconferencing rather than in-person attendance to conduct meetings. This would apply to TAMC’s committees.	SUPPORT Priority 16S
SB 445 (Wiener) Sustainable Transportation Project Permits and Cooperative Agreements	<u>2/26/2025</u> Senate Transportation and Local Government	<u>This bill would require a CEQA lead agency to provide a written notice to a local agency, electrical corporation, or private telecommunications provider, regarding its need to use, relocate, alter, change, or otherwise improve facilities, publicly owned and managed utilities, public spaces, or other publicly or privately owned facilities under the third-party entity’s jurisdiction or ownership for the implementation of a sustainable transportation project.</u>	<u>Watch</u> <u>Priority 11S</u>

TAMC Bill Matrix – April 2025

Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 752 (Richardson) Sales and use taxes: exemptions: California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project: transit buses	2/21/25 Introduced	This bill would extend the sales tax exemption on zero-emission bus purchases from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028	Watch Priority 13S



Memorandum

To: Executive Committee

From: Ariadne Sambrano, Transportation Planner

Meeting Date: April 2, 2025

Subject: Federal Transportation Update

USDOT's New Memo Requiring Review of Competitive Grant Awards

The Trump administration has issued a series of executive orders, including [“End Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing”](#) and [“Unleashing American Energy,”](#) which signal a significant policy shift. These directives aim to dismantle the Biden administration’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives while prioritizing economic deregulation and fossil fuel expansion. The real-world effects of these policies are already unfolding, with the suspension of federal funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This abrupt change has created further uncertainty for agencies and communities reliant on these critical funding sources.

Compounding these concerns, a recently leaked [memo](#) from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) reveals that Secretary Sean Duffy has called for another wave of unprecedented policy shifts. Following the dismantling of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, the memo calls for a sweeping review—and likely elimination—of competitive grant funding for projects related to bike infrastructure, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, climate change, and equity-focused initiatives. This directive specifically targets competitive grants that have not yet completed grant agreements or obligated funding, including those that are only partially obligated. While projects with existing and fully executed grant agreements are not subject to additional review, any new federal funding allocated to those projects would be. This move aligns with the administration’s broader agenda, prioritizing economic growth and deregulation while deprioritizing environmental sustainability and social equity.

Overview of the New USDOT Memorandum:

Following the recently leaked memo, USDOT's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy (OST-P) issued [additional guidance](#) requiring a review of all competitive grant and cooperative agreement selections made after January 20, 2021, that do not have fully obligated agreements in place. This review process is intended to ensure compliance with the administration's executive orders by identifying and eliminating funding for projects that prioritize climate action, equity, and other goals that conflict with these directives.

The guidance outlines a three-step review process:

1. **Program Identification:** Identify programs that include equity, DEI, climate change, environmental justice, bicycle infrastructure, or EV charging infrastructure as part of their scope.
2. **Project-by-Project Review:** Examine each selected project to flag elements related to these priorities for potential removal.
3. **Project Scope Revision:** Modify, reduce, or cancel awards that do not align with the administration's executive orders.

USDOT's Office of Policy and Office of the General Counsel (OGC) will oversee final approvals for these project reviews. Any programs meeting the outlined criteria must be reviewed before awarding subsequent phases or adding additional funds to existing agreements. Furthermore, USDOT's Office of the Secretary will now conduct a secondary review of grant selections before final announcements are made. This new process is expected to lengthen the timeline for awarding grants and could alter funding allocations for numerous transportation initiatives.

Potential Impacts:

The new policy may introduce additional layers of administrative review, potentially leading to:

- **Delays in Grant Award Announcements:** The secondary review process may slow down the timeline for funding notifications, affecting project planning and implementation schedules.
- **Increased Scrutiny on Project Alignment:** Applications must clearly demonstrate alignment with federal priorities, including economic development, safety improvements, and infrastructure resilience.
- **Adjustments to Evaluation Criteria:** Some grant programs may revise their selection criteria to ensure consistency with USDOT's overarching objectives, potentially impacting previously competitive projects.

- **Elimination of Equity and Climate-Focused Projects:** Bike infrastructure, electric vehicle charging stations, and other sustainable transportation initiatives may see a reduction or removal in funding eligibility.

Conclusion:

Although TAMC does not currently rely on federal funding, USDOT's new grant review process could affect future opportunities by imposing stricter scrutiny and funding limitations, particularly for climate and equity-related projects. In response to the Trump administration's policy shift away from DEIA initiatives – including potential efforts to eliminate funding for biking and green infrastructure – TAMC should proactively monitor policy changes and explore alternative state funding sources. Future grant applications should emphasize economic benefits, congestion reduction, and safety improvements while de-emphasizing climate and equity components. Staff should remain informed on federal funding changes for guidance. As federal support diminishes, securing state and local funding will be essential to sustaining transportation initiatives in Monterey County.