

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

June 24, 2020



TAMC Board Honors Retiring Caltrans Deputy Director

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors presented a certificate of appreciation to Aileen Loe, Deputy Director for Planning and Local Assistance for her service as an ex officio member of the TAMC Board of Director for over 14 years.

Ms. Loe, who is retiring from Caltrans, was the project manager for the Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan. She has also lead Caltrans' participation in the development of several other collaborative transportation planning projects including the Highway 68 and Highway 218 Corridor Studies, Big Sur Transportation Demand Management Plan, District 5 Active Transportation Plan, and the US 101 Business Plan for the Central Coast .

After multiple Board members thanked Ms. Loe for her service on behalf of Monterey County residents, Chair Alejo summed it up by telling Ms. Loe, that she has "improved lives and saved lives."

TAMC Board Approves the State Route 156 Multimodal Plan

The TAMC Board of Directors approved the State Route 156 Multimodal Plan and determined that the approval of the Plan made it exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Staff developed the State Route 156 Multimodal Corridor Plan to present an integrated analysis of mode-specific plans along the corridor with the intent to document the eligibility of the State Route 156 - Castroville Interchange for Cycle 2 funding through the State's Solutions for Congested Corridor Program.

The staff presentation of the multimodal plan received wholehearted support from Board members who said, "this was a big thing" and was the first step in the long-range plan to provide relief and improvements along State Route 156. Member Smith noted the importance of Measure X and SB1 funding being

available to fund this project and thanked the public for supporting both. [State Route 156 Multimodal Corridor Plan](#)

New Members Appointed to the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee

The TAMC Board of Director appointed four members to serve on the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee. Those appointed to serve are Jesús Valenzuela and Andrea Manzo, representing Building Healthy Communities, Paul Arnaudo, representing the Monterey County Farm Bureau and Laurie Eavey, representing Communities for Sustainable Monterey County.

Members of the Citizens Oversight Committee represent a diverse range of community interests to assure that a broad range of geographic and stakeholder interests on represented on the committee. Their duty is to ensure that Measure X funds are spent according to the terms of the Measure X Transportation Safety & Investment Plan. The Plan, approved by voters in November 2016, is anticipated to generate an estimated \$600 million over 30 years for transportation projects & programs in Monterey County.

Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Plan which identifies conservation strategies with co-benefits to transportation infrastructure climate resiliency and public safety, and then proposes ways to implement those strategies as advance mitigation for the transportation improvements.

The Plan was developed based upon a state law passed in 2016, which established a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy as a conservation planning tool to promote the conservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources.

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 and Measure X, TAMC has habitat mitigation needs for regional transportation improvements in corridors that are highly constrained by environmental factors, with some projects lying within the coastal zone. The goal of the Monterey County plan is to address those needs and TAMC would be one of the first five agencies seeking a regional conservation investment strategy plan to be approved by the State of California.

The Investment Strategy Plan was funded with a \$375,810 grant from the Caltrans Adaptation Planning grant program which was matched with \$91,160 Measure X funds from the Habitat Management / Advance Mitigation program, resulting in a leveraging of over seven times of the Measure X funds.

A draft of the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy will be available for public review in July 2020.