



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Members are: John Phillips (Chair), Robert Huitt (1st Vice Chair), Luis Alejo (2nd Vice Chair), Alejandro Chavez (Past Chair), Vacant (County Representative), Ed Smith (City Representative)*

**Wednesday, January 9, 2019  
Transportation Agency Conference Room  
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas**

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

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 Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of Transportation Agency and Executive Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

**3. BEGINNING OF 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** the Executive Committee draft minutes of November 7, 2018.

**-Rodriguez**

**3.2 APPROVE** "sustained superior performance" step increase from Principal

Transportation Planner Step 5 to Step 6 for Michael Zeller.

- Muck

*On April 23, 2003, the TAMC Board approved an employee incentive program to encourage excellence in employee performance and promote retention of superior employees. This employee incentive program includes the ability to award an additional step increase for sustained superior performance, which requires prior approval by the Executive Committee.*

## END OF CONSENT AGENDA

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4. **RECEIVE** update on state legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** TAMC Board adopt the 2019 legislative program.

- Watson/Khoury

*Staff and legislative analyst Gus Khoury will present a state legislative update and request a recommendation for the TAMC Board to adopt the 2019 legislative program.*

5. **RECEIVE** nominations for the eighteenth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County; and **SELECT** awards recipients for the eighteenth awards ceremony to be held during the January 2019 Transportation Agency Board Meeting.

-Wright

*The Transportation Agency released a call for nominations for the "18th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards" in October 2018 to encourage and appreciate efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County. Fourteen nominations were submitted to the Agency in December for consideration for the awards ceremony scheduled during the January 2019 Transportation Agency Board meeting.*

6. **RECEIVE** report from the Nominating Committee for its recommendations to the Board to elect Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair of the Board and members of the Executive Committee, for the term beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

-Chavez

*Agency bylaws require the election of officers at the beginning of the Agency's January meeting. The Nominating committee will report on its recommendations for officers and Executive Committee to the Board at the January meeting.*

7. **RECEIVE report on draft TAMC Board meeting agenda of January 23, 2019.**

**- Hale**

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9. **ADJOURN**

**Next Executive Committee meeting is:**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**There will be no Executive Committee meeting in December.**

**Please mark your calendars.**

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 inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County**

**55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902**

**Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**TEL: 831-775-0903**

**FAX: 831-775-0897**

**CORRESPONDENCE, MEDIA CLIPPINGS, AND REPORTS - No items this month.**



***Memorandum***

**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant  
**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2019  
**Subject:** **Executive Draft Minutes of November 7, 2018**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**APPROVE** the Executive Committee draft minutes of November 7, 2018.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▢ Executive Committee Draft Minutes of November 7, 2018

**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 are: John Phillips (Chair),  
Robert Huitt (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), Luis Alejo (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair),  
Alejandro Chavez (Past Chair),  
Simon Salinas (County representative), Ed Smith (City representative)*

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

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

Transportation Agency Conference Room  
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>JUN 18</b>	<b>AUG 18</b>	<b>SEPT 18</b>	<b>OCT 18</b>	<b>NOV 18</b>	<b>JAN 19</b>	<b>FEB 19</b>	<b>MAR 19</b>	<b>APR 19</b>	<b>MAY 19</b>	<b>JUN 19</b>
Luis Alejo, Supr. Dist. 1 (L. Gonzales)	P(A)	P	P	P(A)	P(A)						
Alejandro Chavez, Soledad (F. Ledesma)	P	P	P	E	P						
Robert Huitt, Pacific Grove (D. Gho)	P(A)	P	P	P	P						
John Phillips, Supr. Dist. 2 (J. Stratton)	P	P(A)	P	P	P						
Simon Salinas, Supr. Dist. 3 (C. Lopez)	P	P(A)	P	P	P						
Ed Smith, Monterey (A. Renny)	E	P	P	P	E						

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
Staff present: Goel, Hale, Muck, Rodriguez, Watson, Williamson and Zeller.  
Others present: Agency Counsel Kay Reimann.
  
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

On a motion by Committee member Salinas and seconded by Chavez, the committee voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda.

**3.1** Approved minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of October 3, 2018

**3.2.** Recommended that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Board approve calendar year 2019 schedule of meetings for Agency Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

**END OF CONSENT**

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**4. THREE YEAR OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 19/20, 20/21 AND 21/22.**

The Committee provided direction and guidance to staff on assumptions for the three-year operating budget for fiscal years 19/20, 20/21 and 21/22.

Rita Goel, Director of Finance & Administration, highlighted the proposed three-year budget assumptions for fiscal years 19/20, 20/21, and 21/22. She reported that the Agency budget separates expenditures into two types: operating and direct programs. Operating expenditures include staff salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, and equipment purchases. Direct program expenditures include outside consultants, contracts, expenditures that apply to specific project delivery tasks such as rail program, highway projects, bicycle and pedestrian program.

Director Goel outlined the assumptions for revenues and upcoming activities. She reviewed a proposed 3% cost of living increase, an increase in the health plan allowance and steady state for the remaining employee compensation. She reported that TAMC plans to add a planner position for the Go831 program which will be funded from the SAFE (call box) funds. The Agency continues to have a healthy reserve. Director Goel noted next steps will be that the draft budget will go to the Executive Committee in January or February 2019 and to the Board in February. Final budget adoption will be in May, 2019.

**5. APPOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On a motion by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Huitt and seconded by Chair Phillips, the committee voted 5-0 to recommend that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County appoint Board members Alejandro Chavez and Simon Salinas as the Nominating Committee to meet and return to the Board of Directors on January 23, 2019 with recommendations for Board Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, and Executive Committee. These positions will serve one-year terms beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

**6. TAMC DRAFT AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 5, 2018**

Executive Director Hale reviewed the highlights of the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of December 5, 2018. She noted that:

- The Board will receive an update on:
  - Pajaro to Prunedale Corridor Study; and
  - Salinas Rail Project Package 1, construction bid
- Six outgoing board members will be recognized for their service: K. Craig, J. Edelen, C. Hardy, S. Salinas, R. Rubio and L. Santibanez.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None this month.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.





TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

## *Memorandum*

**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director  
**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2019  
**Subject:** Employee Incentive Award

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**APPROVE** “sustained superior performance” step increase from Principal Transportation Planner Step 5 to Step 6 for Michael Zeller.

### **SUMMARY:**

On April 23, 2003, the TAMC Board approved an employee incentive program to encourage excellence in employee performance and promote retention of superior employees. This employee incentive program includes the ability to award an additional step increase for sustained superior performance, which requires prior approval by the Executive Committee.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The cost of this step increase to the salaries and benefits budget for the current fiscal year will be an additional \$4,100. The increase between steps is 5%. There are sufficient funds in the adopted budget for fiscal year 18/19.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Transportation Agency's Human Resources Rules and Regulations includes an employee incentive program to further the Agency's self-interest in recruiting and retaining the most competent employees. If an employee demonstrates sustained superior performance over a significant period of time, the Executive Director may at her discretion approve the advancement or acceleration of a step increase for this employee. The definition of sustained superior performance includes consistent, day-to-day, unfailingly exceptional work output that is both quantitatively and qualitatively superior (see attachment).

Transportation Agency human resources policies state that an employee at Steps 1 through 4 is eligible for a performance-based 5% merit increase each year. After that, employees are eligible for the 6th

step after an additional 3 years and eligible for the 7th step after an additional 4 years. The employee incentive program provides for an early step increase based on performance and approval by the Executive Committee.

Mike Zeller continues to do excellent work for the Agency. Mike performs at a high level independently handling a broad range of complex and detailed tasks. This past year has been particularly challenging with a diverse set of issues such as:

- Coordinating with the California Transportation Commission on State transportation funding programming activities,
- Development and implementation of SB 1 competitive grant programs and guidelines;
- Prop 6 attempt to repeal SB 1,
- Regional Development Impact Fee update,
- Salinas Rail Extension property acquisition,
- Fort Ord Reuse Authority transition planning, and
- Managing the funding of Measure X projects and programs

All of these tasks needing vigilance to ensure no balls are dropped; Mike has juggled all of this and more, in a calm and professional manner. Agency Management therefore recommends granting Mr. Zeller an early 5% step increase.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- Employee Incentive Program Policy

4.4 Employee Incentive Program

- A. All employees that are subject to step increases are eligible for this program. The total cost of this program shall not exceed \$7,500 in a fiscal year. The purpose of this incentive program is not to increase employee compensation, but rather to realize a public benefit through the promotion of efficiency, initiative and morale in TAMC service. This incentive program serves the substantial public purpose of ensuring continued recruitment and retention of qualified and competent employees. With this incentive program, TAMC is taking steps to further the Agency's self-interest in recruiting and retaining the most competent employees.
- B. If an employee demonstrates sustained superior performance over a significant period of time, the Executive Director may at his/her discretion approve the advancement or acceleration of a step increase for this employee. The definition of sustained superior performance includes consistent, day-to-day, unfailingly exceptional work output that is both quantitatively and qualitatively superior. Superior quality means written reports that are well thought out, timely, accurate, and written correctly for the intended audience. Superior quantity means volume of work above what would normally be expected of an average performer. Any award of this nature must have prior approval by the TAMC Executive Committee.
- C. Alternatively, if an employee performs outstandingly and spectacularly on a particular project, the Executive Director may at his/her discretion authorize payment to this employee of a one-time cash award. The one-time cash award is for a piece of work, or completed project that is over and above what is usually expected of that person in that job classification. It is for work "above and beyond" the call of duty that is beneficial to the Agency and to the public. The one-time cash awards may range from \$50 to \$150 each and cannot exceed an agency-wide total of \$700 per fiscal year. Awards of this nature must have prior approval by the TAMC Executive Committee.
- D. If an employee performs outstandingly "in the moment," a Management Employee may award an Employee with an "employee of the moment" coupon, which could include low-value redeemable merchant coupons for outstanding performance of specific activity. The "employee of the moment" coupons would be from \$5 to \$10 each and would not exceed a total cost to the Agency of \$300 a year. The "Employee of the Moment" award is for an action or individual piece of work that took less than one day to accomplish, and was superlative in and of itself in character, and successful in outcome. All TAMC Management is authorized to make this award.



## *Memorandum*

**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2019  
**Subject:** State Legislative Update & 2019 Legislative Program

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** update on state legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** TAMC Board adopt the 2019 legislative program.

### **SUMMARY:**

Staff and legislative analyst Gus Khouri will present a state legislative update and request a recommendation for the TAMC Board to adopt the 2019 legislative program.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Several items on the final 2019 legislative program pertain to preserving and seeking transportation funding.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Agency legislative analyst Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, will attend the meeting to present an update on state legislative activities and the 2019 legislative program.

The purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to legislative or budgetary proposals. The program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the Agency. The 2019 legislative program continues to focus on transportation funding and is limited to priorities that are likely to come up in the 2019 legislative session.

**Attachment 1** is the final 2019 legislative program, and **Attachment 2** shows changes from the draft 2019 program.

Key changes between the draft program circulated by the TAMC Board and the proposed final

program include:

State priorities:

- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas. *(New item)*
- 5S. Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals. *(New item)*
- 6S. Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District to review existing metrics for the qualification and distribution of Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues, with the possibility for legislation in 2020 to update TDA law. *(Revised language per MST)*

Federal priorities:

- 1F.7. Support Monterey-Salinas Transit application for federal funding for the SURF Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor. *(New item)*
- 1F.8. Support applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program on the California Central Coast. *(New item)*

On December 17, 2018, Principal Planner Christina Watson attended the County Board of Supervisors meeting with legislators, where every legislator noted support for transportation funding, and especially road safety projects. After the meeting, Senator Anna Caballero noted she would carry the Prunedale Bypass excess property bill that was vetoed by Governor Brown. As Caltrans is working on an administrative solution, that legislative action is not currently on the Agency program. The language from the 2017 program stated: "Support legislation to transfer funding derived from the sale of excess rights-of-way purchased for the Prunedale Bypass project to priority projects in the region."

Executive Director Debbie Hale met with Assembly Member Robert Rivas on December 19, 2018 to discuss priorities. Assembly Member Rivas suggested an item for the Agency to consider is the possible return of redevelopment funding for affordable housing purposes. While housing is not within the Agency's responsibilities, state priority 7S includes supporting transit-oriented development.

Staff presented the draft program at the TAMC Board meeting in October and the Rail Policy Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee in November. Staff also met with partner agencies locally and statewide to discuss items for the program. This Committee is now asked to review the final draft program and recommend adoption by the Board in January.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- 2019 Final TAMC Legislative Program
- 2019 Final TAMC Legislative Program, showing changes



## FINAL 2019 Legislative Program: State Priorities

- 1S. Preserve funding for transportation projects, support the constitutional protection of all transportation funding resources, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S. Pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, and public transportation for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S. Support a consistent definition of “disadvantaged communities” among all funding programs to ensure that investments reflect economic and rural area considerations.
- 5S. Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 6S. Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District to review existing metrics for the qualification and distribution of Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues, with the possibility for legislation in 2020 to update TDA law.
- 7S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development, complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, and active transportation projects.
- 8S. Support member agencies’ requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



## **FINAL 2019 Legislative Program: Federal Priorities**

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
1. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
  2. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee and public private partnerships.
  3. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
  4. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding.
  5. Support the return of directed federal funding for transportation priorities.
  6. Coordinate with military installations in Monterey County to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to those installations.
  7. Support Monterey-Salinas Transit application for federal funding for the SURF Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
  8. Support applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program on the California Central Coast.
- 2F.** Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), without restrictions, and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F.** Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 4F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 5F.** Support efforts to change the update timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan from the current four years to eight years.
- 6F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



**DRAFT FINAL 2019 Legislative Program: State Priorities**

- 1S. Preserve funding for transportation projects, support the constitutional protection of all transportation funding resources, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
- 2S. Pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, and public transportation for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 3S.4S. Support a consistent definition of “disadvantaged communities” among all funding programs to ensure that investments reflect economic and rural area considerations.
- 5S. Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 4S.6S. Monitor efforts to modernize efficiency standards relating to farebox recovery ratios under the Transportation Development Act and eCoordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District to ensure efficiency standards do not compromise existing service.review existing metrics for the qualification and distribution of Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues, with the possibility for legislation in 2020 to update TDA law.
- 5S.7S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development, complete streets, alternative commutes, multi-modal transportation, and active transportation projects.
- 6S.8S. Support member agencies’ requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.





## **DRAFT-FINAL 2019 Legislative Program: Federal Priorities**

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
1. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.
  2. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee and public private partnerships.
  3. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.
  4. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding.
  5. Support the return of directed federal funding for transportation priorities.
  6. Coordinate with military installations in Monterey County to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to those installations.
  7. Support Monterey-Salinas Transit application for federal funding for the SURF Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor.
  - 6-8. Support applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program on the California Central Coast.
- 2F.** Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), without restrictions, and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F.** Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 4F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 5F.** Support efforts to change the update timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan from the current four years to eight years.
- 6F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities, when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

**Memorandum**

**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator  
**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2019  
**Subject:** **Transportation Excellence Awards**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** nominations for the eighteenth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County; and  
**SELECT** awards recipients for the eighteenth awards ceremony to be held during the January 2019 Transportation Agency Board Meeting.

**SUMMARY:**

The Transportation Agency released a call for nominations for the "18th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards" in October 2018 to encourage and appreciate efforts made by Monterey County residents, businesses and employees to improve transportation in Monterey County. Fourteen nominations were submitted to the Agency in December for consideration for the awards ceremony scheduled during the January 2019 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None

**DISCUSSION:**

Each year, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County seeks nominations for the Agency's "Transportation Excellence Awards" to show its appreciation to the local community for its outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County. The program has award categories for individuals, businesses/groups, programs or projects. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.

- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.

The following individuals, programs and projects were nominated for consideration for the 2018 Transportation Excellence Awards:

**Special Individual Award Recognition**

- State Senator Anthony Cannella - Transportation Leadership

**Individual Award**

- Jennifer Cline - Volunteer, MST Navigator Program
- Chris Lopez - Chief of Staff, Supervisor Salinas, County Supervisor-Elect

**Group**

- Monterey County "No on Prop 6" Leaders

**Program**

- Taxi Voucher Program - Monterey-Salinas Transit

**Projects**

- Alta Street Rehabilitation Project – City of Gonzales
- Castroville Bicycle Pedestrian Path and Railroad Crossing Project – County of Monterey
- Ciclovía Gonzales – Monterey County Health Department
- Fremont/El Sausal Safe Routes to School – City of Salinas
- Lighthouse Avenue Signal Synchronization – City of Monterey
- “MST Real Time” – Monterey - Salinas Transit
- Mud Creek Landslide – Caltrans, District 5
- “Ride the 40s on Us” - Monterey-Salinas Transit
- West Broadway Urban Village Infrastructure Improvement Project – City of Seaside

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Transportation Excellence Awards 2018 Nomination Summaries

# 2018 Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations

## **Special Individual Award Recognition:**

**Nominee:** State Senator Anthony Cannella

**Nominator:** Debbie Hale, Executive Director, TAMC

**Description:** During his eight years in the California State Senate, Senator Cannella was a leader on transportation issues. As a Civil Engineer and a former member of the Stanislaus Council of Governments, he had a special interest in transportation. He served on the Senate Transportation Commission and carried legislation for TAMC to extend the ability for public-private financing of transportation issues.

But Senator Cannella's most significant contribution to transportation was his landmark vote in favor of Senate Bill 1 (2017). By leveling new vehicle license fees, and not only raising but indexing the gas tax for inflation, SB 1 assured that transportation would finally have a stable funding source over the long-term. Senator Cannella was the only Republican in the Assembly or State to vote in favor of this legislation, and in doing so, he suffered extensive criticism from his party and many of his constituents.

## **Individual Award:**

**Nominee:** Jennifer Cline

**Nominator:** Cristy Sugabo, Monterey-Salinas Transit

**Description:** Jennifer Cline is one of the volunteers for Monterey-Salinas Transit. Under the MST Navigator Program, she has been volunteering for the last five (5) years. She regularly rides the MST bus system and provides assistance to other riders as needed. During her volunteer work hours, she answers questions about MST bus lines, provides directions, or informs those who appear to be struggling to board or getting off the bus. Jennifer is also trained in MST's travel training program to help individuals with limited experience and encourage them to ride the bus safely and independently. She has also worked alongside MST staff at community centers and outreach events to promote riding the MST bus system and to provide information on MST's Mobility programs.

**Nominee:** Chris Lopez.

**Nominator:** Jayne Smith, SOS US 101 Traffic Safety Alliance

**Description:** Chris Lopez began meeting with constituents in 2017 to address traffic safety concerns along US 101 south of Salinas. He has met consistently with the group, attended local and state meetings to champion the group's mission to improve safety along this stretch of the highway. His guidance and direction as well as advocacy for the Alliance's efforts and his willingness to collaborate across government, local agencies, residents and business owners underscore this nomination submitted by the SOS US 101 Traffic Safety Alliance.

**Nominee:** Monterey County "No on Prop. 6" Leaders

**Nominator:** Debbie Hale, Executive Director, TAMC

**Description:** Each of the members of the Monterey County "No on Prop. 6" Leaders group and the organizations they represent reached beyond their own organization and took an active role in Monterey County to educate others about the negative impacts of Proposition 6. Proposition 6 would have resulted in an annual loss to our region over \$30 million dollars per year-money that can now be used to match local Measure X and other monies to deliver transportation safety and congestion relief projects of local, regional and state significance.

Due to their efforts, and the efforts of similar organizations and volunteers throughout the state, these individuals and their organizations succeeded in defeating Proposition 6. Their activities were of critical

importance to the future of transportation funding, particularly because, as a public entity, TAMC is not able to advocate for or against a ballot measure.

**Program:**

**Nominee: MST Taxi Voucher Program**

**Nominator:** Cristy Sugabo, Monterey-Salinas Transit

**Description:** MST offers a taxi voucher program to assist seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans in accessing vital destinations within their communities. Eligible seniors, persons with disabilities, or veterans can receive taxi vouchers to pay for their taxi cab trips. There is a \$3.00 co-pay when paying with the MST voucher for each one-way trip and the trip is not to exceed a \$17.00 taxi meter reading. MST partnered with organizations who represent seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans to distribute the taxi vouchers to individuals the organizations serve. To date, the program has a total of 3,781 enrolled participants of which 1,092 are persons with disabilities, 2,508 are seniors, and 181 are veterans. The program is funded by Measure Q, a 15-year countywide 1/8-cent sales tax measure for public transit to serve veterans, seniors and persons with disabilities.

**Projects:**

**Nominee: Alta Street Rehabilitation Project**

**Nominator:** Harold Wolgamott, City of Gonzales

**Description:** The \$5 million-dollar Alta Street Rehabilitation Project was the most significant capital improvement project in over 25-years for the City of Gonzales. The growth of the City's Industrial Business Park over the last ten years resulted in a significant increase in truck traffic on Alta Street-the main access to US 101 for long haul truck transporting packaged produce from the fields of the Salinas Valley. Trucks going to and from the City's Industrial Business Park significantly deteriorated the pavement condition along Alta Street resulting in the need to rehabilitate the thoroughfare.

Construction involved the full pavement rehabilitation along the 10,000-foot length of Alta Street, which is the main north and south thoroughfare through Gonzales. Features of the project included use of the cost-effective and green approach of full depth reclamation to reuse the existing pavement and base rock material and results in a stronger roadway section compared to conventional "remove and replace" approach.

**Nominee: Castroville Bike/Ped Path & RR Crossing**

**Nominator:** Neville Pereira, County of Monterey

**Description:** The Castroville Bicycle Pedestrian Path and Railroad Crossing project constructed a 0.74-mile path from McDougall Street to Castroville Boulevard, that included constructing a 1,170-foot bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. This \$10.6 million project was designed to create safe and healthy routes for students to walk or ride bikes to and from school. Prior to the construction of the project, students who walk or bicycle from Castroville would often go up and over an active railroad tracks, along a farm field, and then cross over a busy section of Castroville Boulevard to reach the existing bicycle/pedestrian path along Castroville Boulevard to get to their school.

The bridge now provides students a much safer route to school and connect downtown Castroville to Elkhorn Elementary School and North Monterey County High School. It also links various portions of the existing multi-modal transportation infrastructure improving access for all bicyclists and pedestrians from the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas to Watsonville, to Santa Cruz County.

**Nominee: Ciclovía Gonzales**

**Nominator:** Carmen Gil, Monterey County Health Department

**Description:** Ciclovía Gonzales is a free community event that focuses on creating healthy communities through the building of partnerships among city residents, school districts, nonprofit agencies and the broader community. This year, the Monterey County Health Department worked together with the City of Gonzales and Building Healthy Communities to put together the first Ciclovía event in south Monterey County.

As a family event that closes the streets to motor vehicle traffic, Ciclovía Gonzales offers the community a space to enjoy biking, walking, and free activities in a safe environment. This year, over 100 volunteers of all ages donated their time to plan and implement this event. In addition, over 35 agencies from all over Monterey county were present at the event offering their services and information to participants. Over 900 community members from throughout the County attended the very first Ciclovía event in South County.

**Nominee: Fremont/EI Sausal Safe Routes to School**

**Nominator:** James Serrano, City of Salinas

**Description:** In collaboration with the Monterey County Health Department and TAMC, the Fremont/EI Sausal Safe Route to School Project is located next to Fremont Elementary School and EI Sausal Middle School. The schools front East Market Street and are less than one block apart with a combined student population of 1,803 students from kindergarten to eighth grade. The schools are in a low-income area, resulting in higher pedestrian activity, with most students either walking, biking or skating to school. The remaining students commute to school using one of the two available school bus routes, public transit, or by car.

The Safe Routes to School project implemented a road diet that reduced the number of vehicle travel lanes from 4-lanes to 2-lanes, created buffered bicycle lanes and improved the pedestrian facilities on East Market Street between Sanborn Road to Williams Road. The reduction of vehicle travel lanes slows traffic and the addition of a center left turning lane reduced conflict points between turning vehicles and other road users.

Other enhancements include high visibility crosswalks, bulb-outs, the first installation of a separated bikeway in the City of Salinas, bike boxes, and the installation of two coordinated traffic signals which allows vehicles to drive along the corridor with minimal stopping times, reducing traffic delays during peak travel times.

**Nominee: Lighthouse Avenue Signal Synchronization**

**Nominator:** Andrea Renny, City of Monterey

**Description:** The City of Monterey experiences significant arterial roadway congestion along the Lighthouse Avenue and Del Monte corridor. Internal combustion and diesel vehicles stuck in traffic emit considerable amounts of air pollutants and particulate matter. Adaptive Traffic Control Systems (ATCS) is technology for improving traffic conditions by better synchronizing and controlling traffic signals. Vehicle detection equipment and artificial intelligence software are used to respond accurately and immediately to real-time traffic conditions.

The City of Monterey chose the Split Cycle Offset Optimization Technique System (SCOOT) which collects traffic flow information to continually update signal timing along the corridor. The system uses green time efficiently and progresses traffic through a corridor with fewer stops. The results of this advanced signal synchronization system include reduced travel time; increases in quality of life; enhance economic and safety benefits; and less fuel consumed, generating fewer air pollutants.

**Nominee: MST RealTime**

**Nominator:** Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit

**Description:** Monterey-Salinas public transportation service extends as far south as Templeton and Big Sur and as far north as Santa Cruz and San Jose. Their service area is equivalent to 1/5 of the California coast line; and they serve 4.5 million passengers and travel 5.5 million last year.

The Agency introduced MST RealTime to the community last year in a comprehensive marketing and promotional campaign targeting their existing and future passengers. MST RealTime is a set of tools for riders to receive up-to-the-minute real-time bus arrival information. With their passengers being young, old and everything in between, the agency wanted to make sure that MST RealTime technology was accessible and understood by all. MST accomplished this by making RealTime information available by way of text messaging, phone call, smartphone app, or online maps.

Thanks in part to their comprehensive marketing and promotional campaign, the usage of RealTime by text messaging increased 157%, app users increased by 64% and 20%-30% of phone calls were transferred to RealTime automated information between August 2017 and September 2018. The Agency has also seen an increase in the social media fans and followers, as well as, an increase in ridership, due in part to RealTime.

**Nominee: Mud Creek Landslide**

**Nominator:** Joe Erwin, Caltrans, District 5

**Description:** Highway 1 through Big Sur is a symbol of Caltrans' ability to design and construct infrastructure that strikes a balance with nature. This route includes a 70-mile-long ribbon of pavement which straddles a rugged coastline and is world-renowned for transporting people to a most beautiful, tranquil and serene place. Part of this natural beauty includes the dynamic landscapes, making every drive and bicycle ride a truly unique experience. Since the highway was completed in the 1930s, countless landslides and unceasing erosion have changed how the roadway traverses the coast.

In 2017, some of the most catastrophic storms in recent history severely damaged the highway and closed it for more than a year. There were numerous emergency highway closures including Paul's Slide and the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, which cut off critical access for those who lived, and worked on, or traveled along the highway. In January, sections of the embankment at Mud Creek failed. Rock, mud and debris continually slid down the mountainside. On May 20, 2017 50 acres of land and more than five million cubic yards of earth broke free from the mountainside. With a thunderous roar-likened to an earthquake-a new 15-acre peninsula was crated and 1,000 feet of Highway 1 was buried beneath 160 feet of earth materials.

After months of construction under challenging circumstances and trying times, the highway was reopened on July 18, 2018. Residents can now use the highway to travel again and the need for a two-hour detour to travel south of Gorda has ended. Central coast business and economic interests are being met with the facilitation movement of goods, services and people. International visitors to the Big Sur area also appreciate that the iconic highway is open again along the entire Big Sur coast.

**Nominee: "Ride the 40s on Us"**

**Nominator:** Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey-Salinas Transit

**Description:** Like many other public transit agencies across the nation, Monterey-Salinas Transit is always looking for creative and innovative ways to increase ridership. When they were informed about their formula funding amount under the newly created California Climate Investment Grants under the Cap and Trade program, they immediately thought about investing in Salinas. The program requires that the funding be spent in areas which benefit local disadvantaged communities, the largest of which is in Salinas along the East Alisal corridor.

In September 27, MST introduced "Ride the 40s on Us" to their passengers and residents in September 2017 and the campaign will continue through August 2019. "The 40s" are the Salinas based transit lines which operate on weekends and holidays. These lines were the target of the promotion. Anyone seeking a ride on one of the 40s lines boards for free. Additionally, complementary ADA paratransit is free on weekends and holidays in Salinas. Through a California Climate Investment Grant, residents of this disadvantaged area now have access to public transportation on the weekends for shopping, work, and healthcare. Although the target audience was initially defined by MST's funding source, the residents of the entire area of Salinas benefit from this promotional effort.

With a limited budget and a lot of public outreach in the community, MST increased ridership on the weekends and holidays on Salinas lines by 80%. The ridership increase was so significant that it increased MST's overall systemwide ridership by 2.3%, bucking the national downward trend in bus ridership.

**Nominee: West Broadway Urban Village Infrastructure Improvements Project**

**Nominator:** Leslie Llantero, City of Seaside

**Description:** The West Broadway Urban Village Infrastructure Improvements Project was designed to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety and to promote multi-modal forms of transportation while revitalizing downtown Seaside, enhancing the accessibility of business patrons and creating a visually engaging environment around the commercial hub of the city.

The project improvements in June 2018 include a corridor "road diet" that reduced the width of the roadway from a four-lane roadway to two vehicle travel-lanes, bike lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, and streetscape improvements. This project is a good example of implementing "Complete Street" road features to benefit a wide range of people and interests. This investment in the public facilities will serve as a catalyst to draw private investment into the West Broadway Urban Village area, which will promote economic growth and the creation of an urban core/downtown in Seaside.





## ***Memorandum***

**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Rita Goel, Director of Finance & Administration  
**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2019  
**Subject:** **Recommendations for Election of Officers**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** report from the Nominating Committee for its recommendations to the Board to elect Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair of the Board and members of the Executive Committee, for the term beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

### **SUMMARY:**

Agency bylaws require the election of officers at the beginning of the Agency's January meeting. The Nominating committee will report on its recommendations for officers and Executive Committee to the Board at the January meeting.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Staff will be asking the Board to elect the officers of the Board and members of the Executive Committee for 2019 at the January Board meeting.

At its December 5, 2018 meeting, the Board appointed Alejandro Chavez, and Simon Salinas to the Nominating Committee.

Current members of the Executive Committee are, Chair; John Phillips, 1st Vice Chair; Robert Huitt, 2nd Vice Chair; Luis Alejo, Past Chair; Alejandro Chavez, County representative; Simon Salinas, and City representative; Ed Smith.

In addition to the nominating committee's recommendations, there will also be an opportunity for

nominations from the floor at the January Board meeting.