

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

August 28, 2013 Meeting

CONGRATULATIONS, IT'S A GUIDEBOOK! **BOARD ADOPTS NEW RESOURCE TO HELP DEVELOP "COMPLETE STREETS"**

Transportation Agency staff has been working with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, San Benito Council of Governments and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments to produce the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook. On Wednesday, August 28, the Transportation Agency Board voted to adopt the Guidebook, providing a comprehensive resource that can be adopted in whole or in part by local jurisdictions.

"Complete Streets" are roadways designed to meet the needs of all users regardless of mode choice, age or ability. They are safe, comfortable and convenient places to ride a bicycle, walk, take the bus or drive. Developing complete streets can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve health and safety and work towards other important local and regional goals. Other benefits of complete streets include better transportation options for non-drivers, more vibrant downtown and commercial areas and less traffic congestion.

Resources in the Guidebook include sample complete streets goals and policies, conceptual cross-sections, planning and engineering best practices, and a project review checklist. Transportation Agency staff will be available to assist local jurisdictions interested in adopting all or portions of the Guidebook from September 2013 to February 2014.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF HYBRID TO HELP ENSURE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Transportation Agency Board directed its attention to ensuring a sustainable future for Monterey County on Wednesday, voting to recommend that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments adopt Hybrid Scenario A for its 2014 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Hybrid Scenario A, which is based on projects submitted by local jurisdictions and public feedback collected and evaluated by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments staff, focuses on regional corridors, expanded transit, and livable communities. It includes transportation projects which will form the basis for the Monterey County Regional

Transportation Plan. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Board must adopt a preferred scenario at its September meeting.

Once a recommended preferred scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy is adopted, Transportation Agency staff will prepare a draft plan for review by the Board prior to a formal public comment period.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SALINAS ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT

The Salinas Road Interchange, on Highway 1 north of Moss Landing, adds vital safety improvements to a high accident intersection and reduces delays by removing left turns across the highway. Unfortunately, additional expenses from the project, which opened to traffic earlier this year, will require \$560,000 to pay outstanding contract change order requests and item overruns.

At their meeting on Wednesday, the Transportation Agency Board voted to authorize Executive Director Debbie Hale to submit a request to the California Transportation Commission to amend the State Transportation Improvement Plan to cover the additional expenses.

The Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange was funded primarily by Prop. 1B, a state transportation bond measure approved by voters in 2006. The US 101-San Juan Road Interchange Project also is funded in part with Proposition 1B bond program funds. As the project sponsor, the Transportation Agency will be responsible for any cost increases beyond contingency amounts incorporated in the budget. Transportation Agency and Caltrans staffs have been implementing lessons learned from the Salinas Interchange Road Project in the management and oversight of the US 101-San Juan Road Interchange Project. These include implementation of better project contingency costs controls; early resolution of contract change orders and potential claim issues, completion of utility work in advance of construction, improved utility company agreements, and timely reporting back to the Transportation Agency.