

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**August 24, 2016**

#### **CONSTRUCTION ON THE HOLMAN HIGHWAY 68 ROUNDABOUT BEGINS**

After months of pre-construction work, construction on the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout began on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The TAMC Board of Directors learned that the first phase of construction was nighttime work on both sides of the southbound Highway 1 on-ramp, near the Pebble Beach gate and Highway 68 median Wednesday, and Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing construction of the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout will require the full night-time closure of the bridge at Highway 68, from 7p.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursday, September 8. Though closed, emergency vehicles will have full access through the work zone at all times.

Anyone interested in staying informed about the project throughout the construction are encouraged to sign up for the Highway 68 Roundabout weekly notifications:  
[www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/highway-projects/highway-68-roundabout/](http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/highway-projects/highway-68-roundabout/).

The Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project will relieve congestion at the intersection of Highway 68/Highway 1, and will improve access to the Community Hospital, Pacific Grove, Monterey and Pebble Beach. The project is a partnership between the City of Monterey, Pebble Beach Company, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, the County of Monterey, Caltrans, and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC).

#### **SALES TAX MEASURE HEADS TO THE NOVEMBER BALLOT**

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on July 19, 2016 to adopt the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Transportation Safety & Investment Plan and Retail Transactions & Use Tax; and approved the Transportation Agency's request to place the measure on the November 2016 ballot. On August 12, the Agency learned that the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan will be Measure X on the ballot.

Now that the Ordinance adopting a Transportation Improvement Plan and tax was approved to go to the voters for approval as part of the November, 2016 Presidential election, the TAMC Board and employees have certain responsibilities and constraints on proper discussion of this-and any-ballot measure. A presentation by Monterey County's Legal Counsel was given to clarify what the responsibilities and constraints are.

The measure is anticipated to generate an estimated \$20 million annually for a total of \$600 million over thirty years through a retail transactions and use tax of a three-eighths' of one-percent (3/8%). The revenue from the sales tax measure will be used to fund transportation safety and mobility projects in Monterey County. In addition, the money could be leveraged with matching state and federal grants, and have citizen oversight and annual independent audits.

### **EMERGENCY ROADSIDE CALL BOXES ARE STILL IN DEMAND**

The 2014-2015 Call Box Annual Report revealed that despite the prevalence of personal cell phones, emergency roadside call boxes are still needed in parts of Monterey County. Through the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways program, the call box system provides free emergency telephone service to stranded motorists and individuals along State Route 1, State Route 68, State Route 156, US 101, and county expressways.

The call box program provides a system of 190 call boxes allowing motorists to request roadside assistance along the following routes: State Route 1, State Route 68, State Route 156, US Highway 101, Jolon Road (G14, G18), and Arroyo Seco Road / Carmel Valley Road (G16). Although cell phone usage has reduced the need and use of call boxes in some locations, there remain areas not well served by cell phones, such as on parts of Highway 1, Arroyo Seco Road, Jolon Road and parts of Carmel Valley Road.

In fiscal year 2014-2015, a total of 889 calls were made from the 190 call boxes in operation, making for an average of approximately 74 calls per month. Approximately half of the calls came from call boxes located on Highway 1, and seven of the nine most used call boxes are located on Highway 1. The most used call box location is at Highway 1 and the Bixby Bridge.

The Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways program is funded by a \$1 per vehicle surcharge as part of the Department of Motor Vehicle registration fees. The program is a joint effort between California Department of Transportation, California Highway Patrol and the Transportation Agency.