

FINAL 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, January 7, 2026

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

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

Alternate locations:

2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933

1011 Broadway Street, Suite C, King City, California 93930

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

147 Fourth Street, Gonzales, California 93926

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25	JAN 26
Wendy Root Askew, Chair Supervisor District 4, (Yuri Anderson)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Chaps Poduri, 1 st Vice Chair Pacific Grove (Joe Amelio)	P (VC)	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Luis Alejo, 2 nd Vice Chair Supervisor District 1, (Linda Gonzales; Javier Gomez)	P(A) (VC)	P	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P
Chris Lopez, Past Chair Supervisor District 3 (Priscilla Ramos)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	E	P (VC)
Glenn Church, County Representative Supervisor District 2, (Marilyn Vierra , Leonie Gray)	*P(A) (VC)	P	P	P	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P (VC)	P(A)
Jose Rios, City Representative, Gonzales (Lorraine Worthy)	*P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)

P = Present	A = Absent
P(A) = Alternate present	E = Excused
*= New Representative	(VC) Video Conference
TC = Teleconference	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Askew called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Bigelow, Kise, Muck, Park, Rodriguez, Sambrano, Sheehan, Strause, Watson, and Zeller.

Others present: Shane Strong, TAMC Counsel; Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting; Jasmine Mejia-Cortez & Javier Gomez, Monterey County District 1; Monica Hale, Monterey County District 3.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of November 5, 2025.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND DRAFT 2026 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

On a motion by Committee Member Poduri and seconded by Committee Member Alejo, the Committee voted 6-0 to recommend the Board adopt the 2026 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, highlighted the minor changes of the 2026 Legislative Program since the Board last reviewed.

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, reported that State legislators returned from recess on January 5, 2026. He noted while the legislature helped resolve the uncertainty of the continuation of the Cap and Invest Program, the legislature will face complex challenges in 2026. Also noting that timing is crucial, well Governor Newsom is in office. He expressed concern that the 20 million owed to us under the Cap and Invest Program is unpredictable in what we're going to receive. Mr. Khouri concluded, noting that he will prepare a memo for review on Friday.

Ariadne Sambrano, TAMC staff, reported on the federal legislative program, noting that Congress passes multi-year Surface Transportation Acts to fund America's public works, including roads, bridges, transit and rail providing states with long-term uncertainty for

infrastructure planning and project delivery. She noted that the Surface Transportation Act expires on September 30, 2026.

5. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

The Committee provided direction and guidance to staff on assumptions for the three-year budget for fiscal years 26/27, 27/28, and 28/29.

Jeff Kise, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the budget reflects the financial impact of ongoing and committed projects and programs, as well as staff recommendations for operating expenditures. In addition to meeting the planning and programming commitments of the agency, staff seeks to ensure the agency has the operating capacity to meet its needs for the future. These goals are pursued while balancing direct and operating revenue with their associated expenses, and planning for any strategic use of reserves.

Director Kise, highlighted the items on which staff is seeking guidance:

- Contracting for new accounting, grant management and payroll software: The assessment performed in 2025 demonstrated the need to increase the Implementation budget from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and annual cost from \$40,000 to \$75,000.
- TAMC Office space: \$4,000,000.
- Cost of Living adjustment: 2.8%
- Staffing- add planner position: Increase staff headcount by 1 to 19.5 to support several active transportation projects over the next couple of years, funded by grant activities and project cost

Next steps: February 2026 – Draft Budget Executive Committee reviews full draft budget & Overall Work Program & recommends adoption Board reviews, comments & authorizes to send draft OWP to Caltrans for review

May 2026 – Final Budget Executive Committee reviews & recommends adoption

Board of Directors adopts final budget/Overall Work Program/Integrated Funding Strategy

6. BROWN ACT

The Committee received an update from Agency Counsel Strong on the new updated changes to the Brown Act as per Senate Bill (SB) 707.

Mr. Strong reported that

- Effective January 1, 2026. Incorporates the ADA into the Brown Act. If a member demonstrates disability, the body must provide a “reasonable accommodation” to attend by “remote participation.” The remote member must be treated as in-person for purposes of quorum and voting.
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7. TAMC BOARD DRAFT AGENDA

Todd Muck, Executive Director, reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of January 28, 2026. After the Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Employee of the Quarter
- Election of 2026 Officers
- Gas Tax Replacement Study Session
- Brown Act Update

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Askew noted that she had an incredible time on her family trip riding on trains for two weeks.

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Committee held a closed session regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Positions: Executive Director & Agency Council.

The Committee reconvened and reported that no actions were taken.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Askew adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.