TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREeways EMERGENCIES
AND
MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT Fee
JOINT POWERS AGENCY
WITH
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

SPECIAL JOINT
TAMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and
MST FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

TAMC Executive Members are: Jerry Edelen (Chair),
Jane Parker (1st Vice Chair), Kimbley Craig (2nd Vice Chair),
Simon Salinas (Past Chair),
Fernando Armenta (County representative),
Alejandro Chavez (City representative)

MST Finance Committee Members are: Fernando Armenta (County of Monterey),
Victoria Beach (City of Carmel-by-the-Sea), Randy Hurley (City of King),
Frank O’Connell (City of Marina), Patricia Stephens (City of Soledad)

***10:00 a.m.***

Monday, September 16, 2013
TAMC Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. CALL TO ORDER: TAMC Executive Committee Chair Edelen called the meeting
to order at 10:00 a.m., and a quorum of both bodies were established. TAMC
Executive Committee members present: Armenta, Chavez, Edelen, Parker, Salinas.
MST Finance Committee Members present: Armenta, Beach, O’Connell, Stephens.
Agency Staff present: Hale, Muck, Watson. MST Staff present: Sedoryk, Harvath.
Others present: Agency Counsel Reimann. Robert Murdoch, Public Works Director,
Monterey County Resource Management Agency.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.
3. **DISCUSSED** how to coordinate efforts to increase funding for transportation improvements throughout Monterey County, including potential transportation sales tax measure(s).

Carl Sedoryk, General Manager of Monterey-Salinas Transit District, reported that MST held a strategic workshop to review the state of transit funding and directed staff to develop a sales tax proposal and to coordinate with TAMC. He reported that MST's capital investment needs are approximately $22 million in bus replacements, $75 million in facilities replacements and $3 million in telecommunication system upgrades, for a total of $100 million and growing. Meanwhile, federal grant funding has fallen from approximately $7 million in fiscal year 2010 to approximately $6 million this year. He noted that the reasons for reduced transit funds are due to the decrease in revenues from the gas tax, partly due to the recession, as people are driving less and driving more fuel-efficient cars. MST staff is recommending that the District study an 1/8th cent ($0.00125) sales tax ballot measure for November 2014 to support transit and mobility services for seniors, disabled and jobs access for low-income residents, and support capital infrastructure investments. Mr. Sedoryk estimated that this tax would bring in approximately $10 million per year.

TAMC Executive Committee member Simón Salinas asked whether the sales tax measure would have a sunset clause. Mr. Sedoryk responded that the surveys would guide their decision as to a timeframe.

Hunter Harvath, Assistant General Manager of MST, added that each bus costs approximately $500,000, noting bus replacements are expensive but critical.

TAMC Executive Committee Chair Jerry Edelen noted that he feels the success of a sales tax measure would be more likely if it were a coordinated, joint measure and asked if MST’s polling could ask if a measure is better with or without TAMC.

Debbie Hale, TAMC Executive Director, reported that all of the highway projects now under construction were funded via state bond funds and federal stimulus funds. She noted that all the bond and stimulus funding has been spent, and that there is no expectation of more of either soon. Ms. Hale noted that state bond measures had separate funds set aside for self-help counties, which we could not access without a sales tax. She also noted that no one wants to raise the gas tax despite studies finding it should be raised or at least indexed to inflation. She reported that TAMC consultant EMC Research recently did an poll and found that a potential transportation sales tax measure would get around 66% support, without a specific project list, indicating the vote could be higher once a project list was developed. She noted that upon hearing these poll results, the TAMC Executive Committee gave staff direction to develop coalitions, coordinate with MST, and plan for a sales tax measure in coordination with the 2016 presidential election.

TAMC Executive Committee member and MST Finance Committee member Fernando Armenta noted the difficult path forward for a sales tax ballot measure, which requires a
2/3 vote. He noted that it is critical to develop strong coalitions of support and to reach out to all stakeholders, which takes a long time, two years at a minimum. Chair Edelen responded that we can be optimistic because the last time TAMC had a sales tax on the ballot, it got 63% of the vote, falling just short of the required 66.7%, and that since then, TAMC has successfully constructed several major roadway projects.

MST Finance Committee member Victoria Beach asked what the sale tax measure pitch would be, noting that “smart planning” may be a good pitch. Ms. Hale noted that we have a very diverse community, and that some ideas that work for specific areas might not work for other regions of the County.

TAMC Executive Committee member Jane Parker noted that TAMC and MST should coordinate and reach out to consultants with a proven success rate for sales tax measures. Mr. Sedoryk responded that MST hired consultants that were involved in successful measures in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Sedoryk also reported that it is critical for MST to act soon and aim for the 2014 election, because MST’s funding needs are so dire that they are being forced to cut service. He noted that, currently, MST provides a higher level of service than comparable counties as measured by county size and agency budget.

Ms. Beach asked if MST would include a question in their poll about a possible combination effort between TAMC and MST. She also asked if TAMC could consider going in 2014. Ms. Hale responded that urgency does not necessarily translate to success at the ballot, and that it is a good idea to take the time to develop a good project list and build coalitions of support. Mr. Salinas also noted that the City of Salinas is also proposing a public safety sales tax measure, and that too many tax measures on the same ballot lessens the likelihood of any of them to succeed.

Mr. Sedoryk responded that he would ask the consultant about a combined measure. Mr. Harvath estimated that the survey will start in October for discussion. Mr. Armenta requested another meeting of these two committees to review the survey results and discuss next steps.

4. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner