

## **TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY**

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

### ***HIGHLIGHTS***

**August 26, 2015**

#### **Outpouring of Support for the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway**

There was an outpouring of public support for the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway, (FORTAG) at the TAMC Board Meeting on Wednesday. The proposed project developed by two California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) professors, which some have compared to the San Francisco Bay Trail, is the result of a grass-roots effort as a response to the designation of the Fort Ord National Monument in 2012 and the public's desire to improve access to the monument from neighboring communities.

Developed by Fred Watson and Scott Waltz, the plan, which is consistent with what was envisioned long ago in the Fort Ord Use Plan, creates two connected regional trails totaling 30 miles in the former Fort Ord area. These trails will provide better opportunities for residents and visitors to access the Fort Ord National Monument and surrounding destinations without driving. The trail loops would have an open-space buffer on either side of a 12' wide paved trail so that people of all ages and abilities would have access to parks, hiking/mountain biking trails, and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

The plan would also provide a link between peninsula cities, CSUMB and the City of Salinas; further connecting homes, schools, and areas of recreation and employment. The benefits include alternate ways to travel, economic development, and healthier lifestyle choices.

After the informative and detailed presentation, the TAMC Board of Directors directed staff to assist in finding funding sources for the project.

#### **TAMC Transportation Measure Outreach Plan Gains Momentum**

The Agency's Transportation Improvement Measure public outreach plan gained momentum with the TAMC Board of Directors appointment of an Ad Hoc Working Group for the plan. The group will provide input, guidance and participate in the outreach effort. The Agency will continue to take their "self-help" message to the community as they explain the challenges Monterey County faces and seeks input on meeting the need to address Monterey County's aging and underfunded transportation network.

Without a dedicated source of locally controlled dollars for transportation Monterey County is unable to compete against "self-help counties" for additional funding, further placing the county at a disadvantage to address its critical transportation needs to maintain roads and ensure safe, adequate streets, roads, bus systems, walkways, bike routes and transportation systems for today and in the future.

## **Guidelines for Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan Presented**

The TAMC Board of Directors got a preview of wayfinding designs that could be used for location and directional signs along Monterey County's regional bicycle and pedestrian routes. Three options for sign designs were viewed during a presentation of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan. The public can vote for their favorite design on TAMC's public online forum at [TAMC.mysidewalk.com](http://TAMC.mysidewalk.com).

The purpose of the plan and the wayfinding signage is to improve access to regional destinations and promote key signage features that cities and the county will be encouraged to incorporate into their own signs in order to improve wayfinding across city boundaries. Having uniform signs can support residents and visitors who want to bicycle and walk in the cities and in the county, and can enhance each jurisdiction's brand as a regional destination.

An estimated 60% of potential bicyclists indicate that they would cycle more often if it were safer and easier to do so. A complete network of bicycle paths and lanes, secure bicycle storage, and ways to find comfortable routes to destinations are three key elements that encourage bicycling would make it easier and safer to do so. Increased bicycling for transportation would also help maximize the use of our existing road network and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.