

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**August 27, 2014 Meeting**

#### **SR 156 WEST CORRIDOR PROJECT WORKSHOP DRAWS INTEREST**

“Yes, we have a problem. Now how do we fix it?” Practically everyone agrees that safety and congestion are the big issues on Highway 156 West between Prunedale, Castroville and the Monterey Peninsula. In fact, seeking a solution for this long-defined problem is a top priority for The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). During the board meeting one potential solution identified by TAMC and Caltrans as a Public-Private Partnership (P3) was presented to the Board of Directors.

Before a nearly-packed room, TAMC staff and Caltrans presented a workshop on the SR 156 West Corridor Project. The in-depth presentation included a review of the project, budget shortfalls and why & how a (P3) could be the solution to funding this high-priority need. A short video on toll roads was shown, followed by an explanation of what documents, decisions and steps needed to be made to achieve a (P3) for the SR 156 West Corridor Project.

After a Q&A period with the Board, the floor was open for public comments. The majority of them came from the communities of Castroville & Prunedale. Speakers from these communities expressed concerns about traffic diversions onto local roads. They also wanted to be sure that the Board listened to their concerns as they moved forward in their decision making process.

For more information about the Highway 156 Corridor Project and public-private partnerships in California and nationally, visit

<http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/hwyproj/hwy156.html>.

## **FINAL FUNDING FOR HOLMAN HIGHWAY ROUNDABOUT APPROVED**

Plans to relieve congestion near the busy intersection of Holman Highway 68 and the Highway One Southbound Exit Ramp took another step forward. The TAMC Board of Directors approved \$3.2 million to complete funding for construction of the roundabout. Building the roundabout will increase safety, save money, reduce pollution, operate more efficiently and save over 200 Monterey Pine trees. Construction is scheduled to start in September 2015. For more information about the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout and roundabouts in general visit:

<http://Tamcmonterey.org/programs/roundabouts/index.html>. You can also watch the project video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFvaxJspcMo&feature=youtu.be>

## **TAMC EMPLOYEES SELECT MIKE ZELLER AS “EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”**

Congratulations to Senior Transportation Planner, Mike Zeller! Mike has been selected by TAMC employees as the “Employee of the Quarter” for April - June 2014. Employees recognize Mike for his technical skills. He’s the “go-to” guy they can count on to keep their computers functioning and answering those “how do you” computer questions. In addition, he reestablished video conferencing in the office. They also recognized him for his professionalism, diligence, excellent work on the Regional Development Impact Fee program (see more about this below), and for taking the initiative on the Electric Vehicle car purchase.

## **NEARLY \$8.7 MILLION APPROVED IN COMPETITIVE GRANTS FUNDING**

The TAMC Board of Directors approved nearly \$8.7 million in competitive grants funding for transportation improvement projects throughout Monterey County. The three-year Competitive Grants program includes funding from the Regional Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Development Act 2%, and Regional Development Impact Fees to support projects that include bicycle, pedestrian, or transit facilities; link communities with city services; and improve safety. The program of projects approved by the Board represents a collaborative effort of the Transportation Agency and Monterey County jurisdictions to select projects in a geographically equitable manner. For a complete list of projects funded, click onto <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/fund/2014-competitive-grants.html>