MST REVIEWS STATUS OF MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL TAXI AUTHORITY, INCLUDING NEW ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) CEO and General Manager Carl Sedoryk’s report to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County’s Board on the Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority included the first version of a new promotional video extolling the Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority’s accessible taxis. The new cabs, which include wheelchair ramps, will improve service for the elderly and people with disabilities.

BICYCLE SHARING FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REVIEWED

The Transportation Agency board received the Bicycle Sharing Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan for Monterey County. The study identifies a bicycle sharing system could be supported by the estimated demand and ridership in Monterey County, describes the steps to establish a system, and provides a basis for grant applications or other fundraising efforts for an agency or organization interested in starting a bike sharing program. It also considers economic impacts to existing bike rental businesses. Although the Board accepted the study, no actions to pursue a program in Monterey County were authorized at this time.

UPDATE ON HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

As of March 13, construction of the Prunedale Improvement Project on Highway 101 is approximately 60 percent complete. The new Prunedale South Road overcrossing opened to traffic in January; this spring there will be a traffic shift on Highway 101 at Espinosa/Russell Road – traffic will move to the future northbound US 101 lanes, so work on the new Sala Road interchange can continue.

Further north on Highway 101, construction of the San Juan Road Interchange Project is now fully underway. This project will remove three at-grade intersections (Dunbarton Road, San Juan Road and Cole Road) and construct one interchange near the Red Barn.

Construction of the US 101-Prunedale Improvement Project began in the spring of 2011; in December 2012 Caltrans began construction on the San Juan Road Interchange Project. Both projects are scheduled to be completed in 2015.
NEW BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Transportation Agency approved Devin Meheen to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee representing the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Meheen is the owner of Bay Bikes and is an enthusiastic bike advocate with an interest in representing the Carmel area. Mr. Meheen has been nominated for appointment to fill this long standing vacancy by Mayor Jason Burnett.

The Transportation Agency also approved Phil Yenovkian to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee representing the City of Seaside, and Jan Valencia as the committee alternate. Mr. Yenovkian and Mr. Valencia are both bicycle commuters and advocates, and past Gold and Silver Helmet Award winners.

2013 ON-CALL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS SELECTED

The Transportation Agency Board approved the selection of on-call consultants for construction management services. A total of six firms were selected for the 2013 consultant list: Caltrop Corporation, CSG Consultants, Inc., Harris & Associates, MNS Engineers, Inc., Omni-Means, Ltd., and URS Corporation.

The maintenance of an on-call consultant list, which is available for Transportation Agency and member agency projects, creates efficiencies by eliminating the need for new solicitations for consultants for each project. Instead, Transportation Agency and member agencies may contract directly with consultants pre-qualified through this process.

FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL PROGRAM CONTRACTS

The Transportation Agency Board approved a contract with California Towing & Transport to provide services for the 2013-2017 Freeway Service Patrol Program. The contract will not exceed $375,184 and $372,706 for the Highway 101 and State Route 1 road segments, respectively.

The Freeway Service Patrol program provides assistance and/or rapid removal of disabled vehicles and those involved in minor accidents from the freeway. All services are provided free of charge to motorists; the program has been in operation in Monterey County since 2000. It is managed by the Transportation Agency, in partnership with the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol.