AGENDA

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Transportation Agency office to make an inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL:** Call to order and self-introductions. Committee bylaws specify that a quorum shall consist of a majority (7) of the number of voting memberships actually filled at that time (13); the existence of any vacancies shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Transportation Agency. *Your courtesy to the other Committee members to assure a quorum is appreciated.*

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Each member of the public is allotted with three minutes to address any concerns. Comments on items on today’s agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.
3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Approve the staff recommendations for item 3.1 below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

3.1 **APPROVE** minutes of Committee meeting of January 6, 2016. – Montiel

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

4. **RECEIVE** update on the existing conditions for the 2016 Active Transportation Plan, and **DISCUSS** the Plan vision. - Murillo

*The 2016 Active Transportation Plan will be an update of the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The focus of the 2016 Plan update is to match state Active Transportation Program guidelines, incorporate innovative bicycle facility designs, and promote high priority projects.*

5. **RECEIVE** update on the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Draft Environmental Impact Report, and **PROVIDE** input on the Agency’s comment letter. - Leonard

*The County of Monterey has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its project to replace the Davis Road Bridge and widen Davis Road between Reservation Road and Blanco Road. The project is included as part of the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan. The Agency will be submitting a comment letter on the DEIR.*

6. **RECEIVE** verbal update on the Castroville Crossing Project - Green

No enclosure
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee members on bicycle and pedestrian related items that are not on the agenda.

8. **ADJOURN**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Next Committee meeting:
**Wednesday March 2, 2016**
SAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
1 SYLVAN PARK, SAND CITY, CA 93955
*Light refreshments will be provided*

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Ariana Green, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
By Thursday, February 18, 2016
ariana@tamcmonterey.org

Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
TEL: 831-775-0903
FAX: 831-775-0897
The Committee Agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon Thursday, February 18, 2016 nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

*If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.*

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, MEDIA CLIPPINGS**

This agenda with all attachments is available online at
[http://tamcmonterey.org/committees/bpc/meetings.html](http://tamcmonterey.org/committees/bpc/meetings.html)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None this month.

**REPORTS**

None this month.

**MEDIA CLIPPINGS**

**M.1** December 21st The Salinas Californian- Bicycle theft reduces bicycle use – MacGregor “Goya” Eddy

**M.2** January 14th The Salinas Californian - Overpass plan back on track – MacGregor “Goya” Eddy
# Agenda item: 3.1

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee**  
**Draft Minutes of January 6, 2016**  
Held in the TAMC Conference Room  
55 B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

### Voting Members

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<th>Name and Position</th>
<th>APR 15</th>
<th>MAY 15</th>
<th>JUN 15</th>
<th>AUG 15</th>
<th>SEP 15</th>
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<td>James Serrano, Salinas Public Works</td>
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<td>Raul Martinez – County Public Works <em>(Ryan Chapman)</em></td>
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*E – Excused  VC – Video Conference  P(A) – Alternate  TC – Teleconference*
1. Chair Eric Petersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

   Committee member Lisa Rheinheimer introduced herself to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee.

   Mark Laznik noted he will be the alternate representative for City of Salinas. His approval to serve on the Committee will go to the February Board. He introduced himself to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee.

3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

   **M/S/C** Wriedt / Valencia

   Abstain: Lisa Rheinheimer and Jeff Lindenthal

   **3.1** Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of November 4, 2015.

   **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**
4. **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

The Committee received a commented on the draft 2016 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed legislative or budgetary issues. She noted that the program also notifies state representatives of the Transportation Agency’s position on issues of key importance to the agency. The draft 2016 was reviewed by the Transportation Board of Directors. She noted that legislative program continues this focus on transportation funding. Ms. Watson noted that priority 7S of State legislative program will support a redefinition of disadvantaged communities for the State’s cap and trade grant program to better reflect economic and rural area considerations.

5. **BICYCLE SECURE PROGRAM**

The Committee received a call for 2016 Bicycle Secure Program applications.

Grant Leonard, Assistant Transportation Planner reported that in 2015 the Bicycle Secure Program provided new parking facilities that can accommodate approximately 150 bicycles and approximately 90 skateboards using the $30,000 budget. He noted that the applications came from schools, businesses, and non-profits from across Monterey County, including King City, Greenfield, Salinas, CSUMB, and Monterey. Additionally the Agency was able to support Salinas High School’s effort to promote student bicycling by installing a new bicycle repair station at the high school, the first such station provided by the Agency. He noted that the eligibility requirements for the 2016 grant cycle are the same as the 2015 cycle. Applications can request bicycle racks, bicycle shelters, bicycle repair stations, skateboard racks, or funding for artistic bicycle racks. In conclusion, Mr. Grant noted that the Transportation Agency purchases the equipment and pay for delivery. He noted that the proposed schedule calls for an initial application period from December 4, 2015 to February 4, 2016.

Committee Member Lisa Rheinheimer, Monterey Salinas Transit noted that they have a lot of demand for more bicycle racks for the buses.

The Committee had the following comments and suggestions to the Bicycle Secure Program:

- Consider looking into installing bike racks at transit stations
- Consider making bus bike racks for Monterey-Salinas Transit eligible
- Consider placing a limit on the number of applications from the same organization
- Look at addressing the issue of “repeat customers”

MacGregor Eddy, columnist, commented that bike theft is one of the main reasons why people stop bicycling and noted that bicycle registration systems are a good way to deal with theft.
6. 2016 MONTEREY COUNTY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
The Committee received a report and provided comments on the 2016 Monterey County Active Transportation Plan update, and provided input on the proposed outreach approach.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner reported that the Transportation Agency will be preparing an update to the Monterey County Active Transportation Plan in 2016. She noted that staff is proposing to update the plan in-house; with consultant assistance to develop conceptual designs for high priority bicycle and pedestrian projects. Transportation Agency staff is proposing to conduct community outreach to identify high priority bicycle and pedestrian projects. Ms. Murillo noted that having an updated countywide active transportation plan make bicycle and pedestrian projects more competitive for grant funding through the State’s Active Transportation Program. In conclusion Ms. Murillo noted that the 2016 Plan will focus on analyzing key gaps from the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian networks, identifying opportunity sites for innovative bicycle facility design, and will identify areas for enhanced regional and local connectivity. She noted that staff has revised the project timeline to allow more time for Plan outreach and development. Outreach and community input for the Plan are scheduled for the springtime.

The Committee had the following comments and suggestions to the 2016 Monterey County Active Transportation Plan:

- Consider hosting additional meetings and community workshop presentations
- Outreach to target audiences such as schools, agencies, cities, Planning Commissions and bicycling organizations, bike shops
- Consider getting South County involved
- Consider a definition for high priority projects

7. REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING PLAN
The Committee received an update on the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan, and provided input on the draft implementation strategy.

Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan. The Wayfinding Plan will include wayfinding sign design guidelines, identification and branding of regional bicycle and pedestrian routes, and provide an implementation strategy. Ms. Murillo presented the final draft wayfinding sign designs and implementation strategy to the Committee. She noted that signage will first be placed in high priority areas where connectivity is confusing, such as connectivity to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in Sand City. Once these high priority areas are signed, regional routes that are mostly complete, such as the Salinas periphery route, will be signed.

The Committee had the following comments and suggestions on the Wayfinding Plan:

- Consider adding Canyon Del Rey Blvd to the list of high priority areas
- Consider having walking distance signage near the walking locations
- Consider coordinating with the cities on maintenance of signage
- Consider keeping the two options for Gateway Kiosk
8. **CASTROVILLE CROSSING PROJECT**  
The Committee received a verbal report on Castroville crossing project.

Ariana Green, Transportation Planner, reported that the state has put on hold the $6.6 million from the Castroville pedestrian pathway funding. The path would parallel Highway 156 connecting downtown Castroville to North Monterey County High School. Dozens of students get to school that way, on a route requiring them to go beyond the paved road, up and over an active railroad track, then along a muddy farm field for half a mile. In conclusion she noted that this will need to be included in our expenditure plan if further funding allocation is pulled away from the state.

Committee member D. L. Johnson noted that he started teaching 6 or 7 years ago at N. County High School. He expressed concern on that railroad tracks path that so many students are forced to cross over daily. He noted that having connectivity on that stretch would also bring both sides of Castroville together.

9. **LESSONS FROM CHINA**  
The Committee received a verbal report on the “Lessons from China”

Committee Member D. L. Johnson, City of Carmel-By The Sea presented on the lessons from China. He noted they have installed heavy steel fences all along the roads in a few cities in china. He noted that they have nice signage and expressed that the traffic lanes are much narrow than ours and that makes them drive slower. In conclusion Mr. Johnson noted that they have a bike sharing program that allows daily used to those who want to rent a bike to run a few errands and easy to use.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**  
Committee Member Jeff Wriedt announced that a new law came to effect on not being able to use headphones while biking.

Ariana Green announced that on the February 3rd at 5 p.m. just before the Bicycle and Pedestrian committee meeting she will be having a new member orientation list and encouraged all new members to attend to go over the bylaws, learn about the Committee’s role and current projects.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**  
Chair Petersen adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee

From: Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner

Meeting Date: February 3, 2016

Subject: 2016 Active Transportation Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the existing conditions for the 2016 Active Transportation Plan, and DISCUSS the Plan vision.

SUMMARY:
The 2016 Active Transportation Plan will be an update of the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The focus of the 2016 Plan update is to match state Active Transportation Program guidelines, incorporate innovative bicycle facility designs, and promote high priority projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The Transportation Agency budgeted $50,000, to be paid for out of TAMC reserve funding, to begin preparation of the 2016 Active Transportation Plan update in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

DISCUSSION:
The State’s Active Transportation Program encourages increased use of active modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking. Having an updated countywide active transportation plan makes bicycle and pedestrian projects more competitive for grant funding through the State’s Active Transportation Program.

The 2016 Active Transportation Plan will be an update of the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The 2016 Plan will focus on updating the plan to meet the State's guidelines for Active Transportation Plans and identifying high priority bicycle and pedestrian projects. The 2016 Plan will also focus on analyzing key gaps from the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian networks, identifying opportunity sites for innovative bicycle facility design, and will identify areas for enhanced regional and local connectivity.
Transportation Agency staff will work with staff from each of the jurisdictions, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee, and other bicycle and pedestrian community stakeholder groups to identify high priority bicycle and pedestrian projects. In order to make these high priority projects more competitive for State funding, staff plans to hire a consultant to develop conceptual plans for the highest priority projects.

Since presenting this item to the Committee in January, staff has prepared the following existing conditions summary table for all of the bikeways in Monterey County, including the California State University Monterey Bay campus. The table compares existing conditions from the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to current conditions.

### Monterey County Bicycle & Pedestrian Statistics

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<th>2009/2010</th>
<th>2015/2016</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class 1 Miles – Separated Bike Path</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>+ 5.75%</td>
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<td>Class 2 Miles – Bike Lanes</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>+25.97%</td>
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<td>Class 3 Miles – Bike Route/Sharrows</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>Class 4 Miles – Protected Bike Lanes/Cycletracks</td>
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<td>Total Miles of Existing Bikeways</td>
<td>192.5</td>
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<tr>
<td># of bicycle racks</td>
<td>258</td>
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<td># of bicycle lockers</td>
<td>67</td>
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**Demographic, Commute & Safety Information**

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<th>% Change</th>
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<td>Population</td>
<td>404,922</td>
<td>415,057</td>
<td>+2.5%</td>
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<td>% of work trips made by bicycle*</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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<td>% of work trips made by walking</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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<td>Pedestrian Injuries &amp; Fatalities</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>128</td>
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<td>Bicyclist Injuries &amp; Fatalities</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>+20.8%</td>
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*This figure includes taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle and other means and does not single out bicycling. This can explain part of the large increase in the bicycle to work figure over the 2009/2010 estimates.

The summary table above is intended to guide the discussion for the draft Plan vision, goals and objectives that will encourage the use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling (Attachment 1). This draft was developed to consolidate and incorporate the goals from the 2011 Plan and goals from the State’s Active Transportation Plan. In addition, staff has developed a draft definition for high priority projects. Staff requests Committee input on the Plan vision. The discussion for Plan goals, objectives and criteria will continue at the March Committee meeting.

Approved by: Debra L. Hale, Executive Director

Date signed: January 20, 2016

Regular Agenda    Counsel Approval: N/A
Finance Approval: Yes

Attachment: Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Criteria for High Priority Projects
Introduction

The 2016 Transportation Agency for Monterey County Active Transportation Plan is an update of the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which identified all existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Monterey County and the communities therein. This Plan builds off of the bicycle and pedestrian network identified in the 2011 Plan, identifies gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network and identifies opportunity areas for innovative bicycle facility design. This Plan identifies high priority bicycle and pedestrian projects and includes conceptual designs and cost estimates for these projects with the intent of having these projects built sooner.

Vision

Active modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking, are an integral, convenient and safe part of daily life in Monterey County for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

The vision statement for the plan is the foundation on which this Plan’s goals, policies and objectives are developed. The vision statement expresses the desired result of implementing the Plan. The Plan will emphasize planning, designing and building bicycle facilities that will be used by a broad range of people throughout Monterey County.

Goals

The following goals support the vision statement and articulate what the Plan seeks to achieve over time in order to support bicycling and walking in Monterey County for years to come. The goals also set the basis for the Plan’s performance measures and project prioritization criteria that will guide the short-term, mid-term and long-term implementation of projects and programs.

1. **Encourage Increased Use of Active Modes of Transportation:** Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking throughout Monterey County.

   Getting more people to use active modes of transportation is one of the main purposes of this Plan. The Plan seeks to increase the total number of bicyclists and pedestrians in the County and the total percentage of all trips made by walking or using a bicycle. This means increasing commuting, recreational and shorter distance trips to shopping centers, community centers, schools and for connections to transit.

2. **Safety:** Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

   Having safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities encourages the use of active modes of transportation. Bicyclists and pedestrians are particularly vulnerable users of the street system. The innovative bicycle facility designs introduced in this Plan enhance safety and increase predictability for bicyclists, pedestrians and all users of the road.

3. **Connectivity:** Enhance bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity.

   In order to maximize the use of the bicycle and pedestrian network, it has to conveniently connect people to their destinations including: employment centers, shopping centers, community centers, schools and transit stations. This plan analyzes opportunity areas for enhanced connectivity in the
bicycle and pedestrian network in order to link key destinations within cities and in the region. This plan also recommends increases to the number of high quality support facilities, such as the continuation of the bicycle secure program, that contribute to the enhancement of bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity.

4. **Equity:** Provide equal bicycle and pedestrian access for all through public engagement, program delivery and capital investment.
   This goal emphasizes the importance of making investments throughout the County in order to improve multimodal connections throughout the region. This goal also ensures that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of active transportation programs and investments.

5. **Education:** Increase education and awareness of the environmental and public health benefits of bicycling and walking for transportation and recreation.
   This goal supports the overall Plan goal of increasing the use of active modes of transportation and providing equal access to these modes by increasing public awareness of bicycling and walking.

6. **Maintain:** Maintain and improve the quality of the bikeway and walkway network.
   Having quality bikeways and walkways that are maintained and free of hazards and debris are an important component for encouraging the use of active modes of transportation. This goal

**Objectives**

The following objectives are measurable action items that provide measurable action items to evaluate progress towards the goals of the Plan. The objectives are grouped to correspond to the respective Plan goal.

1. **Encourage Increased Use of Active Modes of Transportation:** Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking throughout Monterey County.
   - **Objective 1:** Increase the mileage of Monterey County’s bikeways, including multi-use paths, by [X] from 225.97 bikeway miles in 2016 to [Y] bikeway miles by the year 2022.
   - **Objective 2:** Complete the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail by 2030.
   - **Objective 3:** Increase the number of trips made by bicycle from the existing [X] to [Y] by the year 2022.
   - **Objective 4:** Increase the number of walking trips made by bicycle from the existing [X] to [Y] by the year 2022.

2. **Safety:** Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.
   - **Objective 5:** Reduce the number of bicycle and pedestrian related collisions, injuries and fatalities.
   - **Objective 6:** Employ design facilities best practices, and, where appropriate, use of innovative bicycle facility designs that will make bicycling and walking more comfortable.

3. **Connectivity:** Enhance bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity.
   - **Objective 7:** Integrate planning for bicycle and pedestrian facilities with complete streets principles.
• **Objective 8:** Support the implementation of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan.

4. **Equity:** Provide equal bicycle and pedestrian access for all through public engagement, program delivery and capital investment.
   - **Objective 9:** Encourage participation from all areas of the County in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee.
   - **Objective 10:** Encourage project design that accommodates all ages and abilities.

5. **Education:** Increase education and awareness of the environmental and public health benefits of bicycling and walking for transportation and recreation.
   - **Objective 11:** Work with local agencies to institutionalize, support and promote education and outreach bicycle and pedestrian programs.

6. **Maintain:** Maintain and improve the quality of the bikeway and walkway network.
   - **Objective 12:** Encourage implementation and maintenance of the bikeway and walkway network through the development of jurisdiction’s capital improvement plans.

**Programs**

The following programs help implement the vision of the Plan, and help accomplish the Plan’s goals and objectives.

1. **Encourage Increased Use of Active Modes of Transportation:** Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking throughout Monterey County.
   - **Program 1:** Continue support of bike month activities, and other active transportation activities, such as Ciclovia Salinas.

2. **Safety:** Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.
   - **Program 2:** Collect and maintain bicycle and pedestrian collision data.

3. **Connectivity:** Enhance bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity.
   - **Program 3:** Increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian support facilities, such as secure bicycle racks and lockers.

4. **Equity:** Provide equal bicycle and pedestrian access for all through public engagement, program delivery and capital investment.
   - **Program 4:** Continue language translation for program announcements, such as bicycle safety training outreach materials.

5. **Education:** Increase education and awareness of the environmental and public health benefits of bicycling and walking for transportation and recreation.
   - **Program 5:** Continue to host bicycle safety trainings, and encourage participants to become League of American Bicyclists League Cycling Instructor certifications.

6. **Maintain:** Maintain and improve the quality of the bikeway and walkway network.
   - **Program 6:** Develop a bicycle and pedestrian count program to help assess the demand of...
the bikeway and walkway network.

High Priority Project Definition

The Plan will include conceptual design for high priority projects that meet the following criteria based on the Plan goals:

1. **Encourage Increased Use of Active Modes of Transportation**: Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking throughout Monterey County.
   • **Criteria 1**: Provides a connection to destinations including: employment centers, shopping centers, community centers, schools, and transit stations.

2. **Safety**: Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.
   • **Criteria 2**: Addresses a location with bicycle and pedestrian collision history.

3. **Connectivity**: Enhance bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity.
   • **Criteria 3**: Provides a needed connection in an area where network connectivity is needed.

4. **Equity**: Provide equal bicycle and pedestrian access for all through public engagement, program delivery, and capital investment.
   • **Criteria 4**: List of projects should be equitably distributed throughout the Monterey County.

5. **Maintain**: Maintain and improve the quality of the bikeway and walkway network.
   • **Criteria 5**: Implementation of this project would improve access to the surrounding bikeway and walkway network.
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Grant Leonard, Assistant Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: February 3, 2016
Subject: Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Draft Environmental Impact Report, and PROVIDE input on the Agency’s comment letter.

SUMMARY:

The County of Monterey has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its project to replace the Davis Road Bridge and widen Davis Road between Reservation Road and Blanco Road. The project is included as part of the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan. The Agency will be submitting a comment letter on the DEIR.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial impacts associated with this action.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Public Works Department is proposing to replace the existing two-lane, low-level Davis Road Bridge over the Salinas River with a longer bridge that meets current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements, and will not flood during winter months as the current bridge does. The County is also proposing to widen Davis Road from two lanes to four lanes for a distance of approximately 2.1 mi, between Blanco Road on the north and Reservation Road on the south, in order to meet future transportation needs.

Davis Road is identified as a critical link in a countywide transportation system that is needed to handle future increases in traffic between the City of Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula. In particular, this section of Davis Road is included in the final Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan, adopted by the Agency Board in 2015. During the planning efforts for the
Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan, Agency staff worked closely with Monterey County staff to include the conceptual designs for Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan in the Davis Road DEIR.

Agency staff has reviewed the DEIR and prepared the following bicycling related comments to be submitted as part of the Agency’s comment letter:

1. Support for the Preferred Alternative - Design Variation. The Preferred Alternative - Design Variation is consistent with the conceptual design of the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan, and includes a separated two-way Class IV Bicycle Track on the eastside of Davis Road, in place of Class II bicycle lanes on each side of Davis Road. This version of the preferred alternative reflects the action by the Board of Supervisors in support of the Multimodal Corridor.

2. Recommendation for consideration of a roundabout at the intersection of Davis Road and Reservation Road. The DEIR recommends a larger signalized intersection to replace the current traffic signal at the intersection of Davis Road and Reservation Road. However, the intersection may be suitable for a roundabout, which could provide greater benefits related to safety and congestion, and could reduce cost.

The due date for comments on the DEIR is Friday, February 5, 2016. Agency staff is seeking input on the draft comment letter (attached), prior to submitting the letter.

Following the close of the DEIR comment period, Monterey County will consider all comments, and prepare a Final Environmental Impact Report to be released for public review later this year.

Approved by: Debra L. Hale, Executive Director

Date signed: January 19, 2016

Regular Agenda
Counsel Approval: N/A
Finance Approval: N/A

Attachment:
Draft Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening project comment letter
February 5, 2016

Enrique Saavedra, P.E.
Resource Management Agency, Public Works
County of Monterey
168 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening

Dear Mr. Saavedra:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Congestion Management Agency for Monterey County. Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) staff has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening.

The project will replace the existing two-lane, low-level Davis Road Bridge over the Salinas River with a longer bridge that meets current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements, and will not flood during winter months as the current bridge does. The County is also proposing to widen Davis Road from two lanes to four lanes for a distance of approximately 2.1 mi, between Blanco Road on the north and Reservation Road on the south, in order to meet future transportation needs.

Agency staff has reviewed the DEIR and prepared the following comments:

1. Support for the Preferred Alternative - Design Variation. The Preferred Alternative - Design Variation is consistent with the conceptual design of the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor Plan, and includes a separated two-way Class IV Bicycle Track on the eastside of Davis Road, in place of Class II bicycle lanes on each side of Davis Road. This version of the preferred alternative reflects the action by the Board of Supervisors in support of the Multimodal Corridor.
2. Recommendation for consideration of a roundabout at the intersection of Davis Road and Reservation Road. The DEIR recommends a larger signalized intersection to replace the current traffic signal at the intersection of Davis Road and Reservation Road. However, the intersection may be suitable for a roundabout, which could provide greater benefits related to safety and congestion, and could reduce cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Leonard of my staff at (831) 775-0903.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

CC: Randy LaVack, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 5
Half of bicyclists have had a vehicle stolen and 20 percent have been robbed three or more times, according to a new study by McGill University in Montreal. Bicycle theft discourages the use of bicycles for transportation and exercise.

In Salinas, recurrent bike theft is one reason that few Hartnell students ride bicycles, according to Hartnell instructor and bicycle advocate Frank Henderson.

Lack of bicycle racks makes bicycle theft easier for the thief. When bicycles are secured to furniture not designed for that purpose – known as flyparking – the bikes can be stolen. A bicycle rack is made of sturdy material, embedded in the ground, and makes a complete loop – a design that deters theft. When a rider secures a bike to a street sign or fence, the bicycle might be lifted over the top of the sign or the fence may be cut. Secure bicycle parking is necessary to make a town bicycle friendly.

The location of bike parking is important. If a bike rack is located out of sight, such as in the back of a building, it gives thieves more time to defeat a lock. I saw a tangle of bicycles locked to the handrail by the front door of the Cesar Chavez library in Salinas, while the bicycle rack – out of sight by the fence – stood empty. The librarian told me that the riders wanted to keep an eye on their bicycles.

The Salinas YMCA has bicycle racks that sit empty. When I asked Barbara McGaughey, CEO of the Central Coast YMCA, why no one used these bike racks, she said that bicycles are stolen from the racks so often that people have stopped using them. I noticed that the racks were located where they could not be seen from any window or doorway, but they were visible from the parking lot. Perhaps that made theft possible, since the bikes could be put in a vehicle quickly.

There are two kinds of bicycle theft, amateur and professional, according to a 2008 Department of Justice report. The amateur thief may take a bicycle for their own use, or for sale for a small amount money. The professional thief will target expensive bicycles and might sell the parts in another city. The inexpensive bike taken by an amateur is more likely to be recovered.

Deterrents to bicycle theft, recommend in the DOJ report, include good locking practices, parking facilities for bikes, and bicycle registration.

What can you do to prevent being a victim? In addition to using a good lock, you can register your bicycle at the National Bike Registry for a small fee (http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com) or register free at Project 529 (https://project529.com). This will allow your vehicle to be returned to you if it is recovered.

Please report bicycle theft. Since many bicycle thefts are not reported to the police, increased public awareness may result in an increase in reported thefts, making it seem that the situation is getting worse when it is getting better.

“Bike Thief” is a short and funny video on YouTube that you might enjoy. (http://bit.ly/1Qzzn1f). The filmmaker, Casey Neistat, stole his own bicycle on busy streets in the daytime. He used large tools – hacksaws and crowbars – while documenting the indifference of the people walking past him.

Skateboards welcome

Everett Alvarez High school recently installed racks for skateboards and bicycles.

“Bikes and skateboards encourage a healthy level of activity,” said Carlos Trujillo, Vice Principal at EAHS. “We received a Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) grant to increase our bicycle racks, and we included four skateboard racks for student use.”

Skateboards are a mode of transportation that costs little money and generate no greenhouse gases. Congratulations, EAHS.

If you want to apply for a TAMC grant go to the Bicycle Secure Program www.tamcmonterey.org or call Grant Leonard 755-4402, note the deadline is Feb. 4, 2016.

More online

Crucial funding has been restored for the Castroville Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing project. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County announced Wednesday that the California Transportation Commission will earmark $6.6 million for the desperately needed overpass.

As it stands, area residents and North Monterey County High School students walking or bicycling to and from Castroville must leave the paved road, go through a farm field, and cross the railroad tracks. Walking or bicycling on Highway 156 is not an option because of the potential danger posed.

On Thursday, I took the bus to Castroville and set out on foot toward the high school. Along the way I met Saphyre Aguirre and Jordan Marquez of Castroville, both 17, who were picking their way through trash and mud.

"It is pretty bad," said Marquez.

After stepping over the railroad tracks, and passing two large "No Trespassing" signs, Marquez and Aguirre had to walk along a muddy road to get to the school.

It is not just high school students who travel this dangerous route. I met a pregnant woman, holding the hand of a toddler, who must take the same route from the bus stop in downtown Castroville to her home. Farmworker Francisco Mancias was lifting his bicycle over the tracks on his way home from work.

The trash along the dirt road and the railroad track is not just plastic bags and fast food wrappers, though there are a lot of those. There is also a discarded mattress, a couch and old rugs. The planned overpass bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians will take time to build -- but the county could clean up this small garbage dump now. The staff at the office of Monterey County Supervisor John Phillips, who represents District 2, said they would investigate the trash situation.

"By restoring the $6.6 million, the County of Monterey will be able to move forward on this project. We can provide students with a safe route to school by building a bicycle and pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks in Castroville," said Debbie Hale, TAMC executive director.

Call at your own risk: Uber is a hugely profitable company worth $40 billion that hires drivers to pick up passengers in their own cars to take them to their destination. Uber claims that just matching rides with cars is not running a business. By that logic, the fast-food joints just match hungry people to hamburgers. By calling itself "ride sharing" Uber is allowed to avoid most of the safety, insurance and licensing requirements taxis are required to observe. Uber is not sharing, it is selling. It can sell cheaper because as much as 30 percent of a taxi fare goes to pay for standards that protect both the taxi driver and the passenger. For a variety of reasons, Uber has been banned in India, France, Germany, Spain and Korea as well as many cities. If price, not safety, is your top priority -- try hitchhiking.

The Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority has 21 pages of safety regulations that taxis must meet. Transportation Network Companies such as Uber and Lyft are not regulated by local authorities, according to Alex Lorca, attorney for the RTA. Monterey council member and RTA board member Libby Downey said, "We can only let the public know, so they can make an informed choice."

Uber has an ugly history of bullying. In 2014, Emil Michael, a senior executive at Uber, suggested that the company hire a team of researchers to dig up dirt on Uber critics, and specifically to spread details of the personal life of journalist Sarah Lacy. Support local businesses that comply with the rules. If you need a ride, call a cab.

Be safe.

Follow MacGregor "Goya" Eddy on Twitter at @Goya1949. Contact her by email at wecouldcarless@gmail.com or mail to: We Could Car Less, in care of The Salinas Californian, 123 W. Alisal St., Salinas 93901.

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