Trail Planners Advisory Council (TrailPAC)

Transportation Agency for Monterey County—Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA
Thursday, April 28 (9:30-11am)

Teleconference Option: (712) 775-7031; Access Code: 933387

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Last Meeting Recap:
   a. Minutes from January 22, 2016 Meeting
3. Roundtable Discussion Project Updates:
   a. Active Transportation Plan (Virginia Murillo, TAMC)
   b. Open to all
4. Brainstorm – Trail Planners Advisory Group Goals:
   a. Potential ideas:
      i. Countywide Trails Map – Lead?
      ii. Annual or Semi-Annual Project Coordination
      iii. Focus on a few projects (e.g. Fort Ord Recreational Trail and Greenway)
      iv. Hosting an Annual Trails Symposium
5. Next meeting:
   a. To be determined
1. Welcome & Introductions

Trail PAC Members Present
Bhupendra Patel Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments
Victoria Beach (by phone) City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Joan Carpenter California State Parks
Fred Watson Fort Ord Recreational Trail and Greenway
Scott Waltz Fort Ord Recreational Trail and Greenway
Jonathan Garcia Fort Ord Reuse Authority
Ted Lopez Fort Ord Reuse Authority
Mary Israel Fort Ord Reuse Authority
Melanie Beretti Monterey County Resource Management Agency

TAMC Staff Present
Ariana Green, Associate Transportation Planner Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner

Others Present
Callie Hurd (by phone) California State Parks

2. Last Meeting Recap:
   a. Review Minutes from September 18, 2015 meeting
TrailPAC members reviewed last meeting’s minutes and did not have any comments.

3. Google Maps – Trekker Program Information (Virginia Murillo, TAMC)
Callie Hurd, California State Parks, provided information about the Google Trekker Program. Google loans portable cameras to volunteers for filming, and volunteers then take these cameras along on their excursions through California State Parks properties. Ms. Hurd noted that volunteers use these portable cameras to provide a street-level view of trails and other areas of over 100 California State Parks properties.

Ms. Hurd noted that this program is great, as it allows more people, especially those that cannot physically visit a park to experience State Parks. However, she said that State Parks did not accept Google’s liability contract for the Trekker program as it did not disclose an amount for liability in case the cameras are damaged.
TrailPAC member Victoria Beach asked about engaging volunteers to trek Monterey County’s trails. Ms. Hurd said that hiking clubs in the Bay Area have started to mobilize volunteers to trek park trails. TrailPAC member Joan Carpenter noted that there are liability issues that would need to be addressed. For example, people visiting State Parks would need to know that they are being filmed. Ms. Hurd also noted that the liability waiver issue would need to be addressed. TrailPAC member Scott Waltz noted that mobilizing students from CSU Monterey Bay to volunteer for a Google Trek program would require university approval.

4. Fort Ord Reuse Authority Trails Blueprint (Ted Lopez, Fort Ord Reuse Authority)

TrailPAC member Lopez noted that the Trails Blueprint is a crucial part of the Regional Urban Design Guidelines, and a key part of implementing the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan. TrailPAC member Lopez reported that Fort Ord Reuse Authority staff has been working with staff from the underlying jurisdictions to determine feasibility of the Trails Blueprint.

TrailPAC member Lopez noted that the Fort Ord Reuse Authority Post Reassessment Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the FORA Trails Blueprint concept. The next step would be to present the Trails Blueprint to the FORA Board for approval. Once approved by the FORA Board, the Trails Blueprint will be passed off to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County for project development and construction.

Ariana Green, Associate Transportation Planner, asked about the feasibility of the concept. TrailPAC member Lopez noted that the concept feasibility is based on oral agreements from land owners along the trail concept.

TrailPAC member Carpenter noted that the Highway 1 underpass will be under construction, and is one of the first portions of the Trails Blueprint that will be built.

TrailPAC member Beach asked about funding for construction the Trails Blueprint. TrailPAC member Carpenter noted that the latest Governor’s budget has funding earmarked for greenhouse gas emissions reducing projects like trails. She suggested that staff do research on potential State funding sources.
5. Carmel Area State Parks General Plan (Joan Carpenter, State Parks)

TrailPAC member Carpenter introduced the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan that includes the potential of making Point Lobos a car free park by constructing a continual shared use path between Point Lobos and Hatton Canyon and offering a shuttle service to Point Lobos. She noted that Point Lobos is one of State Parks’ most heavily used parks.

TrailPAC member Beach asked about funding for implementation of this plan. TrailPAC member Carpenter said that there is currently no funding, but that State Parks would need to analyze improvements by segment.

TrailPAC member Beretti asked if State Parks would be coordinating with Caltrans and the Coastal Commission. Ms. Green asked about transit stops along the corridor. TrailPAC member Carpenter said there would be coordination, and that shuttles and trolleys would be analyzed in the plan.

6. Other Project Updates

a. Fort Ord Recreational Trail & Greenway (Scott Waltz/Fred Watson)

TrailPAC member Fred Watson reported that work continues for FORTAG. He noted that the vision for the project remains the same, and that FORTAG will be included in the CSUMB Master Plan update and in the Habitat Conservation Plan. The next step is to begin environmental review and potentially form a FORTAG nonprofit.

TrailPAC member Carpenter suggested building accessible trails due to a recent lawsuit that led State Parks to adopt a new trail standard.

b. TAMC 2016 Active Transportation Plan (Virginia Murillo, TAMC)

There was no time to discuss this item.