BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPC)

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
6:00 PM

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
Sand City Council Chamber, 1 Sylvan Park, Sand City

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 Agency Secretary to make 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

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

Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of Transportation Agency and Executive Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

3.1 Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of February 1, 2017.

- Montiel

The Draft minutes of the February 1, 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting are attached for review.
4. **RECEIVE** report on N. Fremont Street Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvements.

   - Renny

   *North Fremont Street is a critical gap in the regional bicycle and pedestrian network between the City of Seaside and the City of Monterey. The City of Monterey is now working on a project that will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and access along the corridor.*

5. Bicycle Secure Program Grant Applications
   1. **RECEIVE** report on 2017 Bicycle Secure Program applications; and
   2. **RECOMMEND** applications for Transportation Agency Board approval.
   3. **RECOMMEND** that surplus funds be made available to pay for additional requests that may be submitted during the year.

   - Leonard

   *On December 7, 2016, the Agency released the call for 2017 Bicycle Secure Program applications. The applications were due on February 2, 2017. The Agency received eight applications, requesting a total of 19 bicycle racks, one request for artistic bicycle rack funding, one bicycle repair station, and 11 skateboard racks.*

6. **RECEIVE** update on the Golden Helmet Award; and **RECOMMEND** three Committee members to be part of the Golden Helmet Award sub-committee.

   - Murillo

   *The Golden Helmet Award has been used to recognize Monterey County residents for their dedication to bicycling to and from work. The aim of this award is to celebrate the annual countywide bike week events, highlight the benefits of bicycle commuting and inspire others to utilize alternative transportation modes. In spring of 2016, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee requested that the program be reinitiated.*

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURN**
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 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, MEDIA CLIPPINGS, & REPORTS

Correspondence - No items this month.

Media Clipping

M 1.  Rains Means Delays for Highway 68 Roundabout Construction
M 2.  New passenger train lines still planned for Salinas
M 3.  Castroville's Leonard deemed Young Professional of the Year
M 4.  Monterey Herald - Monterey to implement greater bike and pedestrian access on North Fremont

Reports

R 1.  Draft California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan now available. Comments and feedback will be received until March 10, 2017.
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee minutes of January 4, 2017

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of February 1, 2017.

SUMMARY:
The Draft minutes of the February 1, 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
This item has no financial impact.

DISCUSSION:
The draft minutes of the February 1, 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting are attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bicycle And Pedestrian Draft February 2017 Minutes
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<th>AUG 16</th>
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**E** – Excused  **VC** – Video Conference

**P(A)** – Alternate  **TC** – Teleconference
1. Chair Chris Flescher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None this month.

3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

   M/S/C Johnson /LeBarre /unanimous

   3.1 Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of January 1, 2017 with the following correction on item 5: Ms. Murillo noted that the tax will begin collection on April 2017 and the first payment to the cities and County are expected in August 2017.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**
4. **2017 COMPETITIVE GRANTS GUIDELINES**

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the 2017 Regional Surface Transportation Program Competitive Grants program.

Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner, reported that the Transportation Agency periodically programs Regional Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Development Act 2% and Regional Development Impact Fee funds to local projects. He noted that the Transportation Agency receives an annual apportionment of Regional Surface Transportation Program funding, passed through the State. The Transportation Agency distributes Regional Surface Transportation Program funding in both fair-share and competitive program.

The three-year estimated funding of Regional Surface Transportation Program for fiscal years 2017/18/19 is $3.6 million for fair share distribution to jurisdictions and $6.95 million for competitive grants. Monterey County and cities receive fair-share Regional Surface Transportation program funds based on their population and road miles. He noted that Agency staff is proposing to award the competitive grants in two tiers, based on the availability of funding. He noted that the first tier would be funded with estimated $6.95 million in RSTP. The second tier would be funded with any deprogrammed funds form the last competitive grants cycle.

Committee Member LeBarre asked if cities are used to the format of the application. Mr. Zeller noted that the cities are used to the format, and noted that TAMC’s Technical Advisory Committee has already reviewed the application.

5. **BIKE MONTH PLANNING**

The Committee received a report on Monterey County Bike Month 2016 and provided direction to staff on future planning for Monterey County Bike Month 2017.

Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner, reported that bike month is national campaign held annually in May to promote bicycling. The purpose of Bike Month is to raise public awareness of bicycling as a form of transportation. She reported that the 2016 Bike Month Activities included the Salinas Criterium Bike Race, King City Junior Road Race, Salinas Ride to City Council, Salinas Community Ride, and free adult bike safety trainings throughout Monterey County. The Transportation Agency collaborated with CSU Monterey Bay to offer seven free adult BikeSAFE training classes throughout Monterey County in April and in May as part of Bike Month. The Agency also contracted with Ecology Action to conduct bike safety trainings at elementary schools throughout Monterey County. Transportation Agency staff is proposing to allocate eligible funds to continue to support public outreach campaign during Bike Month. The staff recommendation for this year’s Bike Month is to:

1. Pause the BikeSAFE program for the Spring and allow for time to form cross-sector partnerships to create a more robust adult bike safety education program.
2. Continue bicycle safety trainings for children, while coordinating with the County Health Department and others that are offering bicycle safety trainings for children.
3. Continue promoting bicycling and walking events such as Salinas Ciclovia.
The Committee had the following comments on the Monterey County Bike Month for 2017:

- Continue to focus on children’s bike safety rodeos
- Consider developing adult bike safety training courses online
- Consider having Monterey Peninsula College or CSU Monterey Bay filming class organize a bike video to advertise during bike month
- Consider engaging the following groups and organizations for Bike Month outreach:
  o Local libraries
  o Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA)
  o Outreach via the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office in San Jose
- Consider having booths at various community events such as Natividad: Take it Outside
- Consider adding an element of pedestrian safety as part of Bike Month
- Consider having a bike lock giveaway event

Ms. Murillo noted that Committee Member Jerry Ramos emailed the following input: Mr. Ramos appreciates if the Bike Month posters and flyers are available in North County as early as possible, including in Spanish. He noted that he can help distribute the posters in Castroville. He also mentioned it would be greatly appreciated if others can help distribute at Pajaro, Prunedale, Moss Landing, and other North County locations.

6. **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner, provided an update on public outreach for the Monterey County Active Transportation Plan, an update of the 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. She noted that the focus of the Active Transportation Plan is to meet the State guidelines, incorporate innovative bicycle facility designs and promote high priority projects. Staff gathered input on bike and pedestrian improvements from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee, and collaborated with the County Health Department to gather input from their Greenfield Leadership and Civic Engagement group. Staff also collaborated with the City of Gonzales to host a South County public workshop to gather input for the Plan. Ms. Murillo noted that approximately 300 people submitted 430 comments via the online Wikimapping tool.

In conclusion Ms. Murillo noted that the Transportation Agency staff will be meeting with local city staff to review Plan comments, and refine the list of comments. Staff will rank projects, and will bring the ranked list to the Transportation Agency Committees for input. She noted that once the high priority projects, have been identified, TAMC will hire a consultant to develop preliminary designs and refine project cost estimates.

The Committee had the following comments on the Monterey County Active Transportation Plan outreach:

- Continue to work with the city engineering and planning staff
- Consider working with schools to participate in identifying possibly safety projects
- Consider “silly sidewalks”
- Continue to work on identifying next steps component on safe routes to schools

Ms. Murillo noted that Committee Member emailed the following comments: He agrees with the input for North County communities of Castroville, Oak Hills, Moss Landing, and Prunedale.
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Committee member Eric Petersen noted that State Assembly Bill 2509 proposes a revision of Vehicle Code 2509 that refers to bicyclists riding as close to the right as possible.

Matthew McCluney, CSU Monterey Bay, announced that the draft CSU Monterey Bay Campus Master Plan is out for public review.

Committee member Bill Boosman announced that the Pebble Beach AT&T Pro-Am will be February 6 - 12, 2017 calendar function project.

Virginia Murillo announced that the Bicycle Secure Program applications are due at noon on February 2.

Ms. Murillo reminded the Committee that the next meeting will be at Sand City on March 1.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Flescher adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: North Fremont Street Improvement Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RECEIVE report on N. Fremont Street Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvements.

SUMMARY:
North Fremont Street is a critical gap in the regional bicycle and pedestrian network between the City of Seaside and the City of Monterey. The City of Monterey is now working on a project that will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and access along the corridor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The City of Monterey received a $6.48 million State Active Transportation Program grant to improve bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities on North Fremont Street.

DISCUSSION:
North Fremont Street is an important connector between Monterey and Seaside for transit, bicyclists and pedestrians. The neighborhoods directly adjacent to North Fremont Street contain a substantial number of low-income households that rely on transit, bicycling or walking for transportation. This population also includes the elderly and those who are visually and/or mobility impaired. The purpose of the North Fremont Street Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvement project is to provide safe access for all users of the corridor including disadvantaged and vision and mobility-impaired groups.

The project location includes North Fremont Street from Canyon Del Rey (SR 218) to
Casa Verde Way and includes improvements at these intersections (attachment):
- Casa Verde Way
- Dela Vina/Airport
- Ramona
- Casanova
- Canyon Del Rey (SR 218)

In November 2015, the Committee received an update on the project and provided comments on project design. The City of Monterey has been working on refining the project based on these comments, and based on other community and stakeholder input. The project scope of work includes a variety of improvements that will benefit transit riders, bicyclists and pedestrians:
- Sidewalk connections to transit (north side of N. Fremont between Casanova and Canyon Del Rey);
- Transit improvements (queue jump lane heading northeast between Casanova and Canyon Del Rey);
- Protected bicycle lanes (striping and green paint) and protected intersections for cyclists;
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings (ADA accessible, shorter crossing distances, audible pedestrian phase for vision-impaired); and,
- Multimodal intersection improvements (bicycle, pedestrian and transit detection).

The North Fremont Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvement project is funded by a State Active Transportation Program grant. The project is has completed the right-of-way acquisition phase, and is nearing completion of project design. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall of 2017 and last for twelve to eighteen months.

ATTACHMENTS:

- North Fremont Project Overview
Project Overview

- Class IV bike lanes in the median
- Bike Lanes are added to current median
- Almost all existing landscaping to remain
- Bikes enter/exit median bike facility at intersections
- Bike signals to facilitate bike movements
- Bulb-outs and new ADA compliant curb ramps at intersections
- New Sidewalk installation on north side of N. Fremont connecting Casanova to Canyon Del Rey
Increased:
- Safety
- Ridership
- Retail sales

- Bulb-outs and new ADA compliant curb ramps at intersections for improved bike and pedestrian safety
- New Sidewalk installation on north side of N. Fremont connecting Casanova to Canyon Del Rey
Agenda Item 5.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Grant Leonard, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Bicycle Secure Program Grant Applications

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Bicycle Secure Program Grant Applications
1. RECEIVE report on 2017 Bicycle Secure Program applications; and
2. RECOMMEND applications for Transportation Agency Board approval.
3. RECOMMEND that surplus funds be made available to pay for additional requests that may be submitted during the year.

SUMMARY:
On December 7, 2016, the Agency released the call for 2017 Bicycle Secure Program applications. The applications were due on February 2, 2017. The Agency received eight applications, requesting a total of 19 bicycle racks, one request for artistic bicycle rack funding, one bicycle repair station, and 11 skateboard racks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The Transportation Agency’s FY 2016/17 budget has $30,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program funds designated for the Bicycle Secure Program.

DISCUSSION:
On December 7, 2016, the Agency released the call for 2017 Bicycle Secure Program applications. The applications were due on February 2, 2017. The Agency received eight applications, requesting a total of 19 bicycle racks, one request for artistic bicycle rack funding, one bicycle repair station, and 11 skateboard racks.

The Agency received applications from the King City Library, the Castroville Library, the
City of Marina, Seaside Middle School, the Monterey Library, Bay View Academy, Pacific Grove Middle School, and the Monterey Air Resource District. In total, the applications requested parking for 34 bicycles, 84 skateboards (including scooters for Castroville), and one repair station. A summary of the applications is included as an attachment to this report.

Two of the applications include artistic elements for bicycle racks. The City of Marina has requested inverted U-racks that include a sun and wave aesthetic design in the center of the U-rack that is intended to give the racks more character. Additionally, the Monterey Air Resource District has requested funding support for an artistic rack that will be installed near the entrance to their building. Both of these applications further the bicycle Secure Program’s goal of increasing the amount of artistic bicycle racks in Monterey County. Renderings of both artistic racks are included as an attachment to this report.

All the 2017 applicants have demonstrated a need for bicycle or skateboard parking facilities, as well as the potential for usage. As such, each applicant has demonstrated that they meet the goals and criteria of the program. However, the Monterey Air Resources District acknowledged in their application that their location sees limited bicycle traffic, and that the bicycle repair station was a low priority for them. Given these considerations, staff is recommending that Monterey Air Resource District not be awarded the bicycle repair station at this time.

For the first time in the program’s three year history, the estimated cost for the requested racks, repair station, and funding support is less than the programs budget. After purchasing the requested equipment, including shipping and taxes, staff estimates the program will have a reserve of approximately $10,000. The Agency occasionally receives requests for equipment outside of the grant cycle, and having a funding reserve will allow the Agency to provide additional equipment should the Agency receive requests during the year.

Staff is requesting that the Committee recommend applications for approval by the Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its March 22 meeting, and recommend the reserve funding be made available to purchase additional equipment on a case by case basis throughout the year. Once the applications have been approved by the Board of Directors, staff will purchase the racks and oversee the installation process. Staff will also coordinate with the Monterey Bay Air Resource District on the development and installation of their artistic rack. All the racks are to be installed within one month of receipt by the applicant, unless other arrangements have been made with Agency staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Applications Summary
- Artistic Rack Examples
## Attachment 1: Bicycle Secure Program Application Summaries

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<td>5 U-Racks, 1 Skateboard Rack</td>
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<td>Pacific Grove</td>
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<td>Air Resources District</td>
<td>6 Wall Mounted Bike Racks, 1 Repair Station, 1 Artistic Rack Funding</td>
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<tr>
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SUN THEMED U BIKE RACK

Please select the mount type and color below to get a quote for this bike rack

MOUNT TYPE

Choose an option...

http://bicycleparkingracks.com/product/sun-themed-u-bike-rack/

2/1/2017
QUANTITY REQUESTED: 5 bike spot rack, 1 Repair Station

3) Bike Rack Request: *Artistic Rack Fund*

Examples behind the design:
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Golden Helmet Award

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RECEIVE update on the Golden Helmet Award; and
RECOMMEND three Committee members to be part of the Golden Helmet Award sub-committee.

SUMMARY:
The Golden Helmet Award has been used to recognize Monterey County residents for their dedication to bicycling to and from work. The aim of this award is to celebrate the annual countywide bike week events, highlight the benefits of bicycle commuting and inspire others to utilize alternative transportation modes. In spring of 2016, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee requested that the program be reinitiated.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The winner(s) of the Golden Helmet Award will be presented with a $100 gift certificate to local bike shop of his/her choice. Funding for the prize comes from the annual Bike Month/Bike & Pedestrian Education budget which has a total of $27,500 budgeted for fiscal year 2016/17.

DISCUSSION:
The purpose of the Golden Helmet Award has been to recognize Monterey County residents who advocate for and encourage bicycling. The last Golden Helmet Award was presented in 2012 as part of Monterey County Bike Week.
In the past, the Golden Helmet Award Program followed the following processes:

1. Agency releases a request for nominations;
2. Agency receives nominations that are then reviewed and ranked by a subcommittee comprised of members from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee;
3. The subcommittee presents its recommendations to the full Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee which then recommends a winner to the Transportation Agency Board; and,
4. The winner is presented an award at the April TAMC Board meeting to kick-off Bike Month in May.

Staff recommends that the Golden Helmet Award follow this same process.

Ranking Criteria:
Historically, the ranking criteria focused on recognizing individuals who promoted the use of bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation. Frequency and length of travel, history of bike commuting, persistence in inclement weather or other adverse conditions, adoption of best practices and being an inspiration to others were the criteria used to select individuals for this award. Last August, the Committee suggested adding youth, groups, programs and events as eligible Golden Helmet winners. The Committee provided feedback about reformatting the application into a checklist style survey that addresses the following selection criteria:

- Advocates or encourages bicycling as a form of transportation;
- Incorporates bicycling as a form of transportation into his or her everyday life;
- Adopts best practices, such as courteous and safe riding, and
- Is an inspiration to others.

The attached Golden Helmet Award nomination form incorporates this feedback.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Golden Helmet Award Nomination
Golden Helmet Award

Nomination form (Please fill out form completely)

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is soliciting nominations for the Golden Helmet Award, in recognition of the 2017 Monterey County Bike Week. A local bicyclist will be recognized for his/her dedication to bicycling. The award also aims to highlight the benefits of bicycle commuting and inspire others to utilize alternative transportation modes. The winner will be awarded a certificate at the April Transportation Agency Board of Directors meeting and a $100 gift certificate to a local bike shop of choice.

Nominations must be received by noon on Friday, March 24, 2017.

1. Nominee Information

Nominee: ___________________________  
Address: ___________________________  Email: ___________________________
City: ___________________  Zip: ___________  Phone: ___________________________

2. Person Submitting Nomination:

Nominee: ___________________________  
Address: ___________________________  Email: ___________________________
City: ___________________  Zip: ___________  Phone: ___________________________

3. What category does the nominee fall under?

☐ Youth  ☐ Adult individual  
☐ Group or organization  ☐ Program or event

4. About the Nominee:

Indicate which of these qualities apply to the nominee.

☐ Advocates or encourages bicycling as a form of transportation  ☐ Incorporates bicycling as a form of transportation into his or her everyday life

☐ Adopts best practices, such as courteous and safe riding  ☐ Is an inspiration to others in the community
5. Description:
Describe the nominee. Include information on why this bicycling advocate should receive the Golden Helmet Award. Other helpful information include the number of minutes or hours spend on commuting, commute distance, number of years commuting via bicycle, overcoming adverse weather conditions, courteous riding habits, inspiration to others, and a great commute story. Enclose any photographs or other materials that will contribute additional information to the nomination. Use extra pages as needed.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________


Please send your nominations to:
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Attn: Virginia Murillo
55 B Plaza Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
Phone: 831-775-4415
Fax: 831-775-0897
Email: virginia@tamcmonterey.org

This form is also available at www.tamcmonterey.org
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Carmel Pine Cone - Rain Means Delays for Highway 68 Roundabout Construction

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Rains Means Delays for Highway 68 Roundabout Construction

ATTACHMENTS:
- Carmel Pine Cone - Rain Means Delays for Highway 68 Roundabout Construction
RAIN MEANS DELAYS FOR HIGHWAY 68 ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION

By KELLY NIX

The soaking the Monterey Peninsula has gotten over the past month is affecting the construction of the Highway 68 roundabout and could delay the opening of the $10 million project intended to smooth traffic flow through the busy intersection, an official said this week.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County planner Grant Leonard said the agency was hoping that the roundabout — which will eliminate traffic lights — would be open before Memorial Day weekend. However, that might not happen now.

“The exceptional amount of rain the Monterey Peninsula has been receiving has affected the construction schedule by limiting the number of days the construction crew can work,” Leonard told The Pine Cone.

Recover lost time

And when it rains, Leonard said, construction is not only shut down that day, but for one or two days after, to allow the site to dry out. Stormwater regulations, he said, also restrict work, because soil and mud are not allowed to enter storm drains.

To accommodate the weather, Leonard said the project’s managers have developed construction phases to “recover some of the time lost due to rain.”

“The team also checks the daily forecast to identify opportunities to work nights, weekends, or extended hours to progress the project between rain events,” he said.

Agencies managing the project are TAMC, the City of Monterey, Granite Construction, Pebble Beach Company, Caltrans, and Harris & Associates.

While Leonard said it’s uncertain if the roundabout will be operational by Memorial Day, construction crews will continue to do finishing work, such as landscaping, into the summer months.

Work going smoothly

Other than the rain, Leonard said the construction has gone well, and the project is nearly 40 percent complete, and is on budget, and there have been no construction-related injuries.

“The most significant improvements to date include construction of two major retaining walls, most of the new storm drain systems, and rough grading,” Leonard explained. “Concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters will be installed soon.”

Most of the work will continue to be on the north side of Highway 68 through February, until crews begin work on the south side of Highway 68, including the southbound Highway 1 onramp and the gate to Pebble Beach.

While many dreaded the construction for the roundabout, fearing it would mean constant traffic tie ups, crews have kept traffic flowing well in the intersection, with occasional delays and road closures.

“This is one of the key successes of the project so far,” Leonard said. “The team has found ways to maintain all turn movements through the intersection and has made several adjustments to traffic staging and signal timing to minimize congestion coming into the intersection.”

In fact, TAMC believes that the current wait times for drivers at the intersection are similar to or even better than wait times prior to construction.

Water damage at P.G. landmark prompts lawsuit from previous owner

By KELLY NIX

The former owner of the Holman Building in Pacific Grove has filed a lawsuit claiming an insurance company failed to pay $80,000 for water damage to an elevator in the building more than two years ago.

In the complaint filed Jan. 13, Holman Building Associates — a company owned by developer Nader Agha — says that despite having two insurance policies from the Iowa-based AMCO Insurance Company, the firm refused to pay for damages to the elevator.

“On April 13, 2016, [AMCO] sent to plaintiff a letter denying coverage,” according to the lawsuit, filed for Holman Building Associates by Salinas attorney Paul Hart. “The denial was done in bad faith, as the damage to the elevator is a covered loss under the policies.”

The monetary damage to the property was about $80,000 “and more damages are expected to be incurred,” the suit says. The company alleges breach of contract.

Besides the money, the suit is seeking an injunction preventing the insurance company from “the practice of denying claims it knows are covered by its insurance policies,” which the suit contends constitutes “unlawful, fraudulent, and/or unfair business practices.” The claim was first submitted in 2014.

Holman Building Associates is seeking $80,000 in general damages and “consequential damages in an amount to be determined.” It’s also seeking an undisclosed amount in punitive damages, which may be awarded in cases involving malice or fraud.

AMCO’s “conduct was intentional, malicious and was done with a wanton disregard for plaintiff’s rights,” the suit says.

Several businessmen have since purchased the Holman Building and are in the process of renovating it into luxury condominiums.

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Mike Johnson, Salinas ACE Hardware

Water damage at P.G. landmark prompts lawsuit from previous owner

By KELLY NIX

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Page 25 of 35
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Salinas Californian - New Train Service to Salinas

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
New passenger train lines still planned for Salinas

ATTACHMENTS:
- Salinas Californian - New Train Service to Salinas
New passenger train lines still planned for Salinas

Increasing passenger train service to and from the north to Salinas has long been a goal of Monterey county and Salinas city leadership. The plans to link either the Capitol Corridor, (which now ends in San Jose), or Caltrain, (which now ends service at Gilroy) will be in place “optimistically by 2020,” said Christina Watson of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC).

At the TAMC Executive Committee meeting Wednesday, Kimbley Craig expressed some frustration at the perceived slow progress of the plan. Craig, District 5 Salinas city council member and past TAMC board chair, said “the rail service to Salinas, once expected by 2018, has been pushed back year by year since I came on the (TAMC) Board in 2010.”

Todd Muck, deputy executive director of TAMC, explained the delays are due to factors that are not under TAMC control, primarily negotiations with Union Pacific, which owns the railroad tracks.

“We have 10 TAMC professional staff working on all of our programs,” Muck said.

“Originally, the project was to extend Caltrain, (which now runs between San Francisco and Gilroy) to Salinas,” said Watson, the lead TAMC staffer coordinating the rail project. “Then the plan changed to extending the Capitol Corridor (which runs between Sacramento and San Jose) to Salinas. There are a lot of plans in flux for rail projects across the state, so we are coordinating with both Caltrain and Capitol Corridor to see what service we can have in the near term.”

Caltrain is a commuter train between Gilroy and San Francisco and is now being improved in preparation for becoming part of the California High Speed Rail (HSR). The improvements include converting to electric and enlarging the stations. From Gilroy, the High Speed Rail would continue to Merced, down the San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles.

“I want to be clear, I think TAMC is one of the most pro-active and functional agencies in Monterey County,” Craig said at the Wednesday TAMC executive meeting. “I want to ensure that we pursue critical stakeholders, such as Union Pacific, to bring passenger rail to Salinas.”

The TAMC Rail Policy Committee will meet Monday at 3 p.m. at 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas. The agenda is available at www.tamcmonterey.org (http://www.tamcmonterey.org/) or call 775-0897.

New Salinas traffic commissioners

Yolanda Hayes, community activist for traffic calming, was appointed to the Salinas Traffic and Transportation Commission by Mayor Joe Gunter. Retired Salinas policeman Brandon Hill was appointed by District 4 council member Gloria de la Rosa. New council member Tony Villegas has expressed an intention to appoint Ulises Gonzalez, vice principal of Bardin Elementary school, but as of Thursday James Serrano of Salinas Public Works has not received notice of this intent. New District 1 council member Scott Davis has informed the Salinas city clerk that he intends to appoint Elias Nunez. I hope to see you at the next Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting, Thursday at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Rotunda, 200 Lincoln Ave., Salinas. For the agenda go to www.cityofsalinas.org (http://www.cityofsalinas.org/) or call 758-7241. Past meetings are available on thesalinaschannel on You Tube.

Bus board meets Monday

The Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) board meeting will be held Monday at 10 a.m., at 19 Upper Ragsdale Dr., Monterey. For agenda see mst.org (http://mst.org) or call 888-678-2871.

Family bike ride

Family Biking Monterey County will celebrate Black History Month with a family bike ride on Saturday, noon to 2 p.m. Meet by the bike trail at 125 Ocean View Blvd, Pacific Grove at noon, and then the group will bicycle to Caledonia Park at 161 Caledonia in PG, see www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyBikingMC (http://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyBikingMC) or you can email organizer Lauryn Ricigliano at ricigliano@gmail.com (mailto:ricigliano@gmail.com).

Walkers and folks with strollers are welcome. The ride will be cancelled for heavy rain but not for light drizzle.
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Salinas Californian - Castroville's Leonard deemed Young Professional of the Year

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Castroville's Leonard deemed Young Professional of the Year

ATTACHMENTS:

- Castroville's Leonard deemed Young Professional of the Year
Grant Leonard of Castroville has been named Young Professional of the Year by the Monterey Bay chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Leonard, 26, lives in Castroville and is a transportation planner for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

Leonard’s work involves review and comment on environmental impact data for proposed developments.

“We look at the increased vehicle traffic and new transit use, parking, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and support for electric vehicles,” Leonard said. “It is easier to put in an electric vehicle charging station when it (a project) is built, instead of adding it later. We need to build for the future.”

Leonard said that the most interesting part of his job is public relations.

“When my phone rings, it could be anything. Sometimes a tourist wants to know if the roads are open in Big Sur, or a King City resident asks about having a tree trimmed on a suburban street,” Leonard said. “I serve as a resource for other agencies.

“When it is a big project, such as the Prunedale improvement project, or the San Juan Road project, people call with concerns,” Leonard said. “These concerns are usually justified, so it’s a matter of listening to them and explaining what is going on, why the city or county agency made the decision they did.”

Leonard brings knowledge of the area to his planner job. He attended Hartnell College, then Cal State University Monterey Bay and completed his Master’s in Urban Planning at San Jose State. Leonard’s thesis was a study of Chinatown/Soledad Street area in Salinas.

Dear Goya

Dear Goya, I have noticed something that I wish to bring to your attention.

Numerous times I have seen MST vehicles driving on Highway 68 to and from Monterey to, I suppose, a parking lot in Salinas. The signs say, “Sorry, not in service.” This caught my attention because my son was looking for public transportation to his job on Fisherman’s Wharf. This service is incomplete and too time consuming. Highway 68 would be quicker but has almost no service. With a little brainstorming, real service could be attached to these trips. Bruce Powers of Spreckels.

Here is a reply from Hunter Horvath, assistant general manager of Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST).

“Thank you for your inquiry about ‘out of service’ buses on Highway 68. The majority of these buses are coming from MST’s contractor (MV Transportation) garage facility on Burton Avenue near Abbott Street in Salinas. When a bus is traveling from a garage to the starting point of its route, it is running what we call “deadhead.” Under the contract that MST has with MV Transportation, we do not get charged for deadhead hours. We only pay when an MV-driven bus is officially “In Service” on the scheduled bus routes.

“If we were to pick up passengers on Highway 68 with those “out of service” buses, then they would be considered “in service” according to the contract, and we would have to pay MV for those hours. That would add probably hundreds of thousands of dollars of cost to MST’s budget.

“While it would seem to make sense operationally to pick up passengers as the buses are running deadhead along Highway 68, from a financial standpoint it would be both disastrous to our budget and not a wise expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

MST used to run hourly service along Highway 68. We gradually reduced service because our buses were getting tied up in the same traffic congestion that everyone else fights in their cars. We couldn’t keep a schedule, which understandably frustrates customers and is not the type of quality service we strive to provide here at MST. So we focused our major east-west corridor between Salinas and Monterey on the Blanco corridor through Marina. We have one trip in the morning and one in the afternoon, connecting Salinas and Monterey along Highway 68. Until some sort of traffic congestion relief is accomplished along Highway 68, I don’t see us restoring a significant amount of service.”

Local podcast
Steve Kennedy, former Salinas traffic commissioner, and I had a discussion of traffic safety and the high rate of pedestrian deaths on a local podcast. Salinas resident Dominic Dursa hosts the weekly program “Call It What You Will.” Dursa covers many subjects of local interest with his guests. It is available at [http://callitwhatyouwill.libsyn.com/podcast](http://callitwhatyouwill.libsyn.com/podcast).

Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Monterey Herald - Monterey to implement greater bike and pedestrian access on North Fremont

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Monterey Herald - Monterey to implement greater bike and pedestrian access on North Fremont

ATTACHMENTS:

- Monterey Herald - Monterey to implement greater bike and pedestrian access on North Fremont
Monterey to implement greater bike and pedestrian access on North Fremont

Monterey to incorporate median bike lane on North Fremont

By Carly Mayberry, Monterey Herald

Monday, February 13, 2017

Monterey >> In the case of a city project meant to make Monterey’s North Fremont area more bicycle-friendly, it’s not “If you build it, they will come,” but rather “If they feel safe, they will ride.”

That’s the philosophy behind the plan that would include the implementation of Class IV bike lanes in the median of North Fremont Street and make the intersections between Casa Verde Way and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard both pedestrian-friendly and ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant. The project, which will be funded by a $6.5 million grant received by the city in 2014 from Caltran’s Active Transportation Program, was created to get more people walking and biking in the heavily trafficked area.

“When we thought of a street that would really benefit from bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements it was that North Fremont area,” said Associate City Engineer Andrea Renny. “So that’s what we based our grant application on.”

Officially titled the North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvement Project, the project will also include bike signals at the intersections, curb extensions and ADA compliant curb ramps. A new sidewalk connecting Casanova Avenue to Canyon Del Rey will also be installed on the north side of North Fremont.

Renny said the project is slated to begin in the fall and will take about a year and a half to complete. It will be the largest of its kind to be implemented on one street in one location for the city.

The Class IV bike path down the middle of the street will allow riders to bicycle in both directions.

“We eliminated the issues of corridors and the issue of a car wanting to make a right turn and having to cross the bike lane. And there’s a lot of driveways on North Fremont so we also eliminated that conflict.”

Renny also said that such a lane, which became incorporated into Caltrans’ guidelines for separated bike ways in 2015 and represents a bike way that is buffered from motor vehicle traffic, typically sees an increase in ridership of 200 percent.

“A very small percentage of the population is fearless, then there are the people who are going to ride in a big group and then there’s those who will not get on a bike,” explained Renny, recalling statistics she learned at a seminar related to bike way design. “Then the 60 percent will actually ride their bikes if you make them feel safe.”

Other bike lanes instruct riders how to share the road with motor vehicles.

Todd Muck, deputy executive director for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, said that Class IV bike lanes have started to appear in other parts of the country and reflect what other countries have been doing.
for a while now.

“It just wasn’t common in the past,” said Muck. “As it becomes more common, you get more innovation and this is a really innovative project.”

Renny, who grew up in Brazil and noted the many median bike lanes that exist there, agreed.

She also noted the increase in sales by local business owners and their ability to attract high-quality employees that come from area with protected bike lanes and higher bicycle use.

That’s also according to “Protected Bike Lanes Mean Business,” a report by People for Bikes and the Alliance for Biking and Walking, which found that people that shop by bike spend more and that businesses located by great bike networks draw workers that value an investment in biking infrastructure.

*Carly Mayberry can be reached at 831-726-4363.*
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Draft California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Draft California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan now available. Comments and feedback will be received until March 10, 2017.