

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

February 28, 2018

TAMC Board Approves Measure X Safe Routes to School Program

The TAMC Board of Directors approved the Measure X funded Safe Routes to School Program during their meeting earlier this week. With their approval, approximately \$667,000 annually of Measure X money will be used to fund projects and programs that improve children's health by making walking and bicycling safer and easier. The program will also provide better connections between schools, residential areas and vocational training programs; enhanced air quality; and healthier transportation choices for school children and parents.

Most children in Monterey County are driven to school which is one of the leading causes of traffic congestion on local roads in the morning and afternoon. Chaotic drop-off zones in front of schools caused by driving creates an unsafe environment for students walking and bicycling. This program goal is to develop better and safer options than driving, as well offer educational & safety tips for walking, biking and driving to students, parents and surrounding communities.

To broaden the reach of the program, Measure X money will be leveraged to bring in more state and federal dollars to plan and build safe routes to school projects and fund education and encouragement programs.

The Measure X funds are allocated from the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan designated mobility for all category which makes up 13% of the plan. Measure X is estimated to receive \$20 million per year, or \$600 million total, funded by a 3/8-percent sales tax over 30 years. The Safe Routes to School Program is approximately \$20 million over the 30-year life of the program.

FORTAG Environmental Review and Project Development Approved

The Transportation Agency's Board of Directors approved the release of a request for proposals for environmental review and project development for the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway project (FORTAG).

FORTAG is the propose 24-mile paved bicycle and pedestrian trail that will connect FORTAG with the existing Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, California State University Monterey Bay and the Fort Ord National Monument. It's part of a larger effort

to connect communities in the former Fort Ord to each other and to education, employment, community and recreation centers. The trail is designated to accommodate people of all ages and abilities, and will have an open space buffer for most of the route.

The process for the environmental review and project development will take place over the next year and a half. Once complete the proposed regional trail and greenway will be ready to compete for state, federal and private matching funds.

FORTAG is included in the Measure X expenditure plan, with \$20 million allocated to the project. The environmental review and project development is funded from SB1 gas tax and the local Transportation Development 2% Program.

Bicycle Secure Program Grant Applications

Grant applications for the bicycle secure program from the cities of Marina, Del Rey Oaks and Monterey were approved by the TAMC Board of Directors. Bicycle lockers and racks will be provided to Marina and Del Rey Oaks for public use. Funding assistance was granted to the City of Monterey for an artistic rack design for the City Library.

Bicycle Secure Program grant applications are still being accepted. Application forms and more information about the program are available on TAMC's website at: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/bike-pedestrian/bicycle-secure-program/>.