

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**January 24, 2018**

#### **First Allocation of \$1.5 Million of Measure X Funds for Senior & Disabled Transportation Granted**

The first allocation of Measure X funds designated for senior and disabled transportation programs was authorized by the Transportation Agency Board of Directors. The following grant applications were selected to receive \$1.5 million in funding over the next three years to provide programs and projects:

- The Veterans Transition Center of California-Mobility Opportunities for Veterans  
-\$258,689
- Blind and Visually Impaired Center-Orientation and Mobility Training  
-\$178,550
- Josephine Kernes Memorial Pool-Kernes Pool Transportation Voucher Program  
-\$147,000
- Alliance on Aging-Senior Transportation Specialist Project  
-\$170,000
- ITN Monterey County-Dignified Transportation of Seniors and Visually Impaired Adults  
-\$745,761

These 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.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence Awards**

It was clear from the start to the finish of the Transportation Excellence Awards that when a crisis hits, the community, government officials, agencies and businesses will band together to find a solution. Such was the case when the humanitarian and economic crisis hit Monterey County, and particularly, Big Sur during the winter of 2017. Individuals, agencies, elected officials and businesses came together to implement transportation related solutions to address the needs. Three of the seven award recipients at the ceremony are being recognized for work to address the crisis caused by heavy rain last winter.

Here are the individuals, programs and projects award recipients:

**Heather Lanier/Carissa Chappellet**, when nearly 450 residents of Big Sur found themselves isolated from the rest of the county due to the mudslides, damaged roads and bridges, Big Sur residents began calling for an immediate solution-the opening of an emergency trail which would bypass the closure of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge. Cousins Heather Lanier and Carissa Chappellet lead the volunteer effort to help State Parks, the California Conservation Corps and the Big Sur Fire Brigade build the trail. Within 10 days, the trail which is about a mile long, gains 500 feet of elevation and includes approximately 150 steps was built! Now instead of being isolated, the community was reunited.

**John Viarengo**, has served as a volunteer on the Salinas Traffic & Transportation Commission for more than 16 years addressing safety and traffic congestion in the city. At the same time, Mr. Viarengo has volunteered two days a week in the Salinas Police Vehicle Maintenance Division. This retired former auto shop teacher from the Salinas Union High School District provides routine maintenance and minor auto repairs for the police department vehicles. Because of his volunteer service to the City of Salinas, he has made it safer for members of the police department to perform their duties and he has helped Salinas to improve traffic flow and create safer streets.

**Reduced Pricing Bus Pass**- Monterey-Salinas Transit was honored for their decision to offer deeply-discounted bus passes during the construction of the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout. The passes were offered to assist with the congestion expected during the construction by encouraging people who travel through the intersection, or along Del Monte/Lighthouse corridor in New Monterey, to utilize MST. The 31-Day Basic bus pass was discounted from \$95 per month to \$13 and discounted pass for seniors, youth, people with disabilities and veterans was further reduced from \$47 per month to \$6.50 per month. Overall, bus pass sales more than doubled and MST saved the community nearly \$800,000 in commute costs over the 10-month construction period.

**“Walk and Bike Safe in Monterey”** an interactive public education program presented by the City of Monterey that focuses on educating children of all ages, parents and seniors on how to be safe pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. More than 8,500 people participated in activities that taught them safe walking, biking and driving skills.

The other award presented during the ceremony were given to the project teams for the following projects:

- **Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project**
- **Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge Project**
- **Elkhorn Road Emergency Storm Damage Repair Project**

The Transportation Agency also recognized employees Ariana Green for 5 years of service, Maria Montiel and Deputy Director Todd Muck for their 10 years of service and outgoing Board chair, Alejandro Chavez for his service as Chair.

The Transportation Agency present the “Transportation Excellence Awards” annually to honor community members, programs and projects that make a significant contribution to improve transportation in Monterey County.