TAMC Role in FORA Transition

On Wednesday, the TAMC Board of Directors received a presentation from TAMC staff about the Transportation Agency’s role in the Fort Ord Reuse Authority’s transition planning efforts and provided direction to staff related to regional planning funding in the reuse area. During the presentation staff stated that the FORA Capitol Improvement Program has a “local first policy” which prioritizes on site projects on the former Fort Ord over off site and regional projects. Staff compared FORA’s historical funding allocations to projects that would have been covered by the Transportation Agency’s Regional Development Impact Fee program. From a total of $72.9 million of transportation funding allocations made by FORA since the inception of its fee program, $1.6 million has been allocated to off site and regional projects, due to the local first priority. By comparison, a proportional allocation formula with the Regional Development Impact Fee program would have resulted in $22 million being allocated to off site and regional projects – such as Highway 156, Davis Road, Reservation Road and the Highway 1 corridor.

Staff also pointed out that as a result of the local first priority, the majority of FORA’s funding obligations for off site and regional projects are programmed in the outer years of FORA’s Capital Improvement Program. The Fort Ord Reuse Authority has a balance of $123.1 million for transportation projects in its 2018 Capital Improvement Program. Of that amount, $37.3 million is for regional projects, with $31.3 million programmed in the “Post FORA” category after the scheduled sunset date of 2020. In addition, $22.9 million is for “off site” projects, with $19.9 million programmed for after 2020. Staff pointed out that the Transportation Agency has most of these projects in its Regional Development Impact Fee program and could decide at any time to activate the FORA zone to start collecting the regional fees to help fund these regional projects.

After discussion by the Board, with some of its members describing the unwinding of FORA as “being more complicated than anyone visualized,” and others expressing concerns about post FORA imposed obligations, the Board directed staff to continue to work with the transition team.

Call for Nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards

The Transportation Agency is accepting nominations for its annual “Transportation Excellence Awards.” The award honors Monterey County residents, businesses, employees, individuals, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County. Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to promote the most efficient use of the transportation system.
- Innovative activities that promote more efficient use of the local transportation network.
• Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
• Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.


The award honorees will be honored during the regular January Transportation Agency Board meeting. That meeting will be at 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at the Agricultural Center Conference Room, 1428 Abbott Street, Salinas.

**Caltrans Presents Transportation Awards to TAMC & The City of Monterey**

Caltrans surprised the Transportation Agency and the City of Monterey during the TAMC Board meeting by presenting them with a “2018 Excellence in Transportation Award” for the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout.

This is the 32nd annual presentation of the Excellence Awards by Caltrans and the award for the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout was deemed the “most excellent design” in the transportation system operational improvements category for all entries submitted throughout the state.

The criteria used to determine the award winner was an assessment of how well the project engaged community stakeholders, the project’s cost-savings for taxpayers, its’ innovation, performance and applicability to other projects. After evaluating these criteria, the roundabout was given this honor for the transportation system operational improvements it has made in Monterey County.

Boardmember Smith, took the opportunity to publicly thank Rich Deal, for his unrelenting leadership and being the driving force behind the roundabout project. Boardmember Adams acknowledge the Transportation Agency’s successful public outreach and community engagement efforts; and said that the project serves as a model throughout the district, the county and the state. Boardmember Huitt said that the roundabout made a big difference in everyday life and said it was good for the City of Pacific Grove.

The Caltrans Excellence Award is the 8th honor bestowed upon the Holman Highway 68 Roundabout.