

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

February 27, 2019

Short-Term Loans to Monterey-Salinas Transit



The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County approved the authorization of a short-term Measure X loan to Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) up to \$3 million for payroll and other operating costs, to be repaid upon MST's receipt of Federal Transit Administration funds. The Board's approval authorizes TAMC's Executive Director to execute the loan and any future loans under the same terms to help ease similar cash-flow crises.

MST requested the loan after the unexpected delay by the Federal Transit Administration in disbursing federal transit operating funds after the recent government shut-down. Failing to obtain funds such as this short-term loan to keep an adequate cash-flow pending receipt of federal funds, MST could be forced to reduce services to the community.

The use of Measure X funds is consistent with Ordinance 2016-01, Monterey County Transportation Safety & Investment Plan (Measure X), which states that TAMC may issue limited loans, from time to time, to finance any program or project in the Investment Plan. These loans fall under the Mobility for All category of the Investment Plan.



Dockless Bike/Scooter Share Mobility Program

The TAMC Board of Directors received what was described by Board Chair Robert Huitt, as an "extremely informative presentation and informational tool" on the Dockless Bike/Scooter Share Mobility Program. As he noted, the presentation was a tool that local communities could use to help them prepare for the latest development in the shared mobility programs in their cities.

The presentation was made in response to a request from several cities for TAMC's assistance with developing a recommended "best practices" policies and a sample ordinance to address shared mobility programs such as Lime Scooters. Lime Scooters and other share mobility programs make bicycles, electric bikes and/or electric scooters available for rent on a short-term basis within a defined service area.

After researching the issues that other cities faced and noting what worked well, TAMC staff developed the “best practices” recommended policies to provide a general guidance on key challenges, opportunities, proposed solutions, and a sample ordinance for local communities to use as a tool to assist them with addressing their own specific needs.

TAMC Board Hosts Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors held a public hearing to receive comments to identify unmet transit needs in Monterey County.

In its role as the Transportation Development Act fund administrator, the Agency annually holds this hearing annually to seek public input to identify unmet transit needs in Monterey County. This unmet needs process is associated with the Local Transportation Fund, which is one of two designated funding sources for public transit created by the California Transportation Development Act.

The Agency solicits public input on unmet transit needs and places comments into the following categories:

1. Transit service improvement requests that would improve an existing service.
2. Transit service expansion requests that extend a transit route beyond its current limits and fill a gap in service.
3. Capital improvement projects that would enhance existing public transit facilities.

The hearing was the start of the unmet transit needs process. The Transportation Agency is still seeking public comments on unmet transit needs. The deadline to submit public comments and questionnaires for consideration as part of the Agency's annual unmet transit needs process is **April 30, 2019**. Comments can be mailed to TAMC, ATTN. Stefania Castillo, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. 93901. You can also send email comments to: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/transit-needs-hearings/>.

All comments will be reviewed with MST staff to consider options to implement requests and to evaluate comments based on the time frame in which unmet transit needs can be met. The unmet transit needs comments list serves as a public input tool for MST's short- and long-term transit planning and improvements.