

## FINAL MINUTES

### TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members: Michael LeBarre (Chair), Chris Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair),  
Dave Potter (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair), Mary Adams (Past Chair),  
Wendy Root Askew (County representative), Chaps Poduri (City representative)*

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. \*\*\*

Transportation Agency Conference Room, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA

Alternate locations:

*2616 1st Avenue, Marina, CA 93933, Supervisor Askew's Office*

*599 El Camino Real, Greenfield, CA 93927, Supervisor Lopez's Office*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	FEB 23	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23	NOV 23	JAN 24
Michael LeBarre, <b>Chair</b> King City (C. DeLeon)	P (VC)	P	P	P	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Mary Adams, <b>Past Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 5 (C. Courtney)	P (VC)	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P	P(A) (VC)	P
Chris Lopez, <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</b> Supr. Dist. 3 (P. Barba)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Dave Potter, <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b> Carmel-By-The-Sea (J. Baron)	A	P*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wendy Root Askew, <b>County Representative</b> Supr. Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)
Chaps Poduri, <b>City Representative</b> (Joe Amelio)	P* (VC)	P	P	P	P (VC)	P	P	P	P	P

*TC: via teleconference; VC: via video conference*

P = Present

A = Absent

P(A) = alternate present

E = Excused

P(VC) Video Conference

P\*= New Representative

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Guther, Kise, Muck, Rodriguez, Sambrano, Strause, Watson and Wright.

Others present: Robert Brayer, County Counsel; Paul Schlesinger and Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners; Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting; and Coleen Courtney, Supervisor District 5 office.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Committee Member Lopez seconded by Committee Member Adams, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda and minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of November 6, 2023.

## **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & FINAL 2024 PROGRAM**

On a motion by Committee Member Lopez, seconded by Committee Member Adams, the Committee voted 5-0 to recommend the Board of Directors adopt the final 2024 legislative program.

State legislative analyst Gus Khouri presented an update on state legislative activities, noting Governor Newsom is expected to release the Fiscal Year 24-25 proposed budget today. Of key interest is the proposed strategy for lowering the anticipated \$68 billion deficit.

Federal Agency legislative analyst Jim Davenport presented an update on federal legislative activities, noting that Congress came to an agreement on the spending levels for Federal Fiscal Year 2024, providing a path forward to negotiating appropriations bills.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reviewed the final 2024 legislative program and highlighted minor changes from the draft legislative program approved by the Board in October.

## **5. 2023 TRANSPORTATION AGENCY EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

On a motion by Committee Member Askew, seconded by Committee Member Adams, the Committee voted 5-0 to receive nominations for the 2023 Transportation Agency Excellence Awards and select award recipients for the 22<sup>nd</sup> awards ceremony to be held during the January 2024 Transportation Agency Board meeting.

The Transportation Agency received the following seven nominations for consideration for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Transportation Excellence Awards:

- Individual: Amir Attia, Associate Professor, Graphic Design, Cal State University, Monterey Bay
- Business: Boyds Asphalt Services
- Program: "Better Bus Network," Monterey-Salinas Transit
- Project: California Avenue at Marina Heights Drive, City of Marina
- Project: Marina Parking Lot Improvement Project, City of Monterey
- Project: Downtown Streetscape Project, City of King
- Project: ParkIt!

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported that because the award program stipulates that projects need to be completed to be awarded, the ParkIt project, a phased approach to improve public safety on Highway 1, which has not been completed, was removed from the awardee list.

## **6. REVIEW BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS**

The Committee provided direction and guidance to staff on assumptions for the three-year budget for fiscal years 24/25, 25/26, and 26/27. (Board Member Potter arrived during this item.)

Jeff Kise, Director Finance & Administration, reported that the TAMC annual budget development is an iterative process encompassing input from staff, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors. The budget reflects the financial impact of ongoing and committed projects and programs, as well as staff recommendations for operating expenditures. In addition to meeting the planning and programming commitments of the agency, staff seeks to ensure the agency has the operating capacity to meet its needs for the future. These goals are pursued while balancing direct and operating revenue with their associated expenses, and planning for any strategic use of reserves.

Director Kise highlighted the following four items on which staff is seeking guidance:

- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA);
- Adding one position to the agency headcount to do contracts and grants management oversight;
- Exploring new accounting, grant management and payroll software; and
- Commencing the evaluation process for a new office space.

Committee Members offered the following feedback on these issues:

- For the COLA, provide more information with the index including fully loaded numbers from the bay area and other agencies, full Board must approve.
- For the new office space, studies need to be done, look for a central location with a conference room that can accommodate TAMC's larger meetings, consider if TAMC would save costs to purchase a building as compared to renting.

#### **7. INVESTMENT POLICY: SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY UPDATE**

On a motion by Committee Member Askew and seconded by Committee Member Potter, the Committee voted 6-0 to direct staff to meet with the County Treasurer for advice pertaining to the Agency's investment policy supervisory authority and return to the Executive Committee for further direction.

Jeff Kise, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County has an Investment Policy which specifies the types of investments permissible for agency reserve funds. The policy includes a Delegation of Authority which names the County of Monterey Treasurer as the person with supervisory authority over the agency's investments. Staff recommends giving the TAMC Executive Director or their designee supervisory authority over its investment accounts to ensure alignment with the agency goals and objectives.

Committee Member Askew expressed the need to proceed with caution, noting that there are significant risks to leaving the County Treasurer's office. She asked that staff meet with the County Treasurer to seek guidance from experts.

#### **8. INVESTMENT POLICY: INVESTMENT POLICY UPDATE**

On a motion by Committee Member Lopez and seconded by Committee Member Askew, the Committee voted 6-0 to defer the Investment Policy item to the February Executive Committee meeting.

Jeff Kise, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County manages six different funds, the aggregate balance of which is over \$110,000,000. The only market investment option available in TAMC's current policy is the Monterey County Investment pool. Due to the liquidity requirements of the County and its other investment considerations, the yield on this portfolio is 100-200 basis points lower than what can be achieved from some other pools available to the agency. The pooled programs being considered are currently investment components within the County pool. Preservation of capital will remain the core focus, while improving the yield on investments to provide additional funding for agency programs.

#### **9. TAMC BOARD DRAFT AGENDA**

Executive Director Todd Muck reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of January 24, 2024. After Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Election of 2024 Officers
- 2023 Transportation Excellence Awards
- State Route 156 / Castroville Boulevard Update

#### **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **11. CLOSED SESSION**

The Committee held a closed session regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section §54957 – Position: Agency Counsel.

The Committee reconvened in open session:

Chair LeBarre reported no reportable actions taken.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.