

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

September 26, 2007 Meeting

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE PROGRAM MOVING FORWARD

Developers may see an increase in fees as soon as February 2008 if the proposed Regional Development Traffic Impact Fee Program is adopted by Monterey County and its cities. This fee would require new development to pay for the traffic it adds to the regional road system. Transportation Agency Board Members received an update this Wednesday on the fee program and gave input on which projects should be included in the funding list, including:

- Widen SR 68 to 4 lanes from existing Toro Park west to Corral De Tierra.
- Major interchange modifications at US 101 and Highway 156.
- Salinas Eastside Connector, construct an arterial from US 101 to Williams Road in south Salinas.
- Construct frontage roads from Salinas to Soledad, linking with existing frontage roads.
- Add bus rapid transit corridor to Lighthouse Avenue.

The Transportation Agency Board indicated a general acceptance of the project list and the three-zone benefit scenario. Under this scenario, the draft regional development impact fee schedule would assess \$4,644 per dwelling unit to North County-Greater Salinas, \$4,678 per dwelling unit to Monterey Peninsula-South Coast, and \$2,398 per dwelling unit to the South County.

The developer fees, when combined with a transportation sales tax and state and federal funds, will assist in fully funding a list of much needed transportation projects in Monterey County. After the Transportation Agency Board has approved the updated Nexus Study this fall, the Regional Development Fee will be presented to Monterey County and its cities for approval by February 2008.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY BOARD SUPPORTS BALANCED TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

The Transportation Agency is moving forward in developing a draft sales tax investment plan after the Transportation Agency Board of Directors gave its support to a 20-year, ½ cent program of regional transportation improvements to be placed on the November

2008 ballot, with some details yet to be determined. The program strikes a balance between regional safety and congestion relief, local road maintenance, and alternative transportation, while also geographically distributing the projects throughout the county. The concept of a “balanced” scenario received the most support when the voting public was polled in the spring of 2007 and has received the most support at public outreach events including two community leaders workshops held over the summer. There has been broad agreement among community leaders that there is a transportation problem in Monterey County and a local sales tax would be the most effective way to contribute to the solution.

A scientific poll will be conducted later this fall to provide some additional information on which projects are important to Monterey County, after which a draft Sales Tax Investment Plan will be presented to the Transportation Agency Board of Directors for their consideration at the October 24 meeting.

The sales tax investment plan will be finalized later this fall and presented to Monterey County and its cities for their adoption in Spring 2008. The County Board of Supervisors will then place the Investment plan on the ballot for the November 2008 Election.

MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

This October will mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the joint powers agency creating what is now Monterey-Salinas Transit, which provides public transit services across Monterey County. Over the years, Monterey-Salinas Transit has expanded its agency operations and has provided significant improvements for passengers throughout the county, such as service between Salinas and King City, and the brand new Marina Transit Exchange facility.

RIDESHARE WEEK: OCTOBER 1-5, 2007

Monterey Bay area residents are encouraged to share the ride during the 25th annual Rideshare Week, October 1-5, 2007. Rideshare Week promotes sustainable forms of transportation such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting. These options assist in decreasing air pollution and energy consumption, relieving traffic congestion, and reducing transportation costs and parking needs as well as reducing stress. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' Commute Alternatives program promotes Rideshare Week to encourage commuters to try an alternative to driving alone. The Transportation Agency Board adopted resolution 2007-21 declaring October 1-7, 2006 Rideshare Week in Monterey County and encouraged its Board members and staff to share the ride, bike, walk or take the bus to work at least once during Rideshare Week.

**CITY OF SALINAS RECIEVES TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR
PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

With the groundbreaking of Lupine Gardens and Tynan Village Transit Oriented Developments, the Transportation Agency awarded the City of Salinas \$200,000 in Transportation for Livable Communities funds. These funds will go toward pedestrian enhancement projects along Front Street and East Alisal. The Transportation for Livable Communities Transit-Oriented Development Incentive Grant Program encourages land use decisions that support compact, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly development built near transit hubs. Transportation for Livable Communities grant funds are awarded to jurisdictions based on the housing/ mixed-use developments named in the application.