

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

www.tamcmonterey.org

HIGHLIGHTS

February 27, 2008 Meeting

TRANSPORTATION VIDEO AND 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Monterey County residents will soon be able to view the Transportation Agency video on Public Access Television and on the Transportation Agency website. This educational video will inform the public on who the Transportation Agency is and how the agency is contributing to the community; it will also describe the transportation funding needs for Monterey County and identify a solution to the funding shortfall. Not only will the video be shown on Public Access Television it will also be available on demand on the Transportation Agency website at: www.tamcmonterey.org. Public service announcements will also be shown on local television stations to draw interest to the transportation issues and to direct viewers to the Transportation Agency website.

The Transportation Agency 2007 Annual Report will be mailed to residents and businesses throughout the County during the month of March. It will address recent accomplishments and also provide focus on ongoing safety and congestion issues in Monterey County. It will describe the potential solutions in the Transportation Investment Plan.

MONTEREY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County reviewed the latest version of the Investment Plan to be funded by a 25-year, ½ cent sales tax slated for the November 2008 ballot. The Transportation Agency Board approved the text for this plan at the January 23, 2008 meeting. This Transportation Investment Plan will guide the expenditure of more than \$980 million dollars from a proposed transportation sales tax over the next 25 years. The transportation sales tax, when combined with the developer fees and state and federal funds, will fund a \$1.8 billion program of safety, maintenance, congestion relief and alternative transportation projects in Monterey County.

The Investment Plan provides a balance among a variety of much-needed transportation improvements throughout the County. Projects recommended for the sales tax include regional safety and congestion relief road projects on US 101, Highway 156 and

Highway 68. Eligible for the 20% transit set-aside are bus rapid transit projects connecting Pacific Grove and Monterey to Seaside and Marina, increased bus service between Monterey and Salinas, wheelchair-accessible taxi cabs, and improved transit for the elderly and disabled. Candidates for the 3% funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements are a bicycle path between Carmel High School and across the Carmel River Bridge, a bridge over the Salinas River between South Salinas and Spreckels, and improvements along the Coast to add to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. While rail service is no longer included in the plan, Transportation Agency and Monterey-Salinas Transit staff have reached agreement to assure that Caltrain operations will be funded out of existing transit monies.

The Caltrain to Salinas project is not in the investment plan as it is funded from other sources. Transportation Agency and Monterey-Salinas Transit staff has reached agreement to assure that Caltrain operation. will be funded out of existing transit monies.

The investment plan must be adopted by the County Board of Supervisors as well as a majority of the cities representing the majority of the population before it can be placed on the November 2008 ballot. The plan can be viewed on the Transportation Agency website at: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/plan/index.html>.

REGIONAL TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE

The Transportation Agency continued discussions on the proposed Regional Development Traffic Impact Fee Program. If adopted by the Cities and County, this program will require developers to pay for the traffic new growth adds to the regional transportation system. At its January 2008 meeting, the Transportation Agency Board Members adopted the draft Nexus Study for a Regional Development Impact Fee, including a list of projects and fee schedule.

Also discussed at this meeting was the possibility of requiring the fee program to be contingent on the passage of the ½ cent sales tax proposal. A consensus was not reached on this item thus requiring further discussion at the March Transportation Agency Executive and Board meetings.

The developer fee program is estimated to generate \$328 million in revenues for road and transit improvements over 20 years. When combined with a transportation sales tax and state and federal funds, the fee will assist in fully funding a 25-year, \$1.8 billion multi-modal program of much needed transportation projects in Monterey County. The current schedule for implementing the draft regional development impact fee program is to seek approval by the cities and County beginning in Spring 2008, with implementation as early as July 2008.

2008 MONTEREY COUNTY BIKE WEEK

Get involved with the 14th Annual Monterey County Bike Week, May 12-18, 2008. You can participate by:

- Recruiting sponsors,
- Organizing a local bike to City Council ride,
- Hosting a school breakfast site, and
- Volunteering at a Bike Week event.

Goals for Bike Week 2008 include:

- Increasing Bike Week general attendance by 20%,
- Reaching out to South Monterey County schools that did not previously participate, and
- Increasing the number of bike to city council events.

Local city council members and schools are encouraged to participate in Bike Week events, such as: Bike to Council Day, Bike to School Day, and Bike to Work Day. Visit www.bike2work.com to learn more about Bike Week 2008 or call Kaki Chen at 831-775-4413.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY AWARDS FUNDS TO MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT FOR SOUTH COUNTY SERVICE

The Transportation Agency has approved a list of projects for, and authorized Monterey-Salinas Transit's annual application for over \$300,000 in federal transit funds to operate expanded service on rural routes, such as Line 23 between Salinas and South Monterey County and transit services operated by South Monterey County cities. The Transportation Agency and Monterey-Salinas Transit will be working together in the next three months to develop a detailed plan for which services will receive these funds.