

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

May 28, 2008 Meeting

CITIES APPROVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN

All 12 Monterey County cities and the County Board of Supervisors showed their support for countywide transportation improvements by approving The Transportation Investment Plan, a 25-year, ½% sales tax slated for the November 2008 ballot. This plan will guide the expenditure of more than \$980 million dollars, and 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 development impact fee program has also received strong support with 9 cities currently approving the program; the Transportation Agency will seek approval by the remaining 3 cities in the next few weeks. Transportation Agency Board adoption of the Sales Tax Investment Plan is scheduled for June 25, 2008.

Surveys show that Monterey County voters agree that transportation improvements are needed. At least 63% of those surveyed either lean toward or would vote “yes” on a sales tax for transportation improvements, while 8% are currently undecided. These results show that while approval is possible, a strong educational campaign will be needed in order to reach the required 2/3 voter support at the polls in November.

MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT RECEIVES STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency endorsed Monterey-Salinas Transit’s application for \$402,362 in funding from the infrastructure bond fund approved by the state voters in 2006. The funds allocated will be used to enhance security of MST transit facilities through the installation of security gates and closed-circuit television cameras.

NATIONAL DUMP THE PUMP DAY

Join the Transportation Agency in supporting the “Third Annual National Dump the Pump Day” in Monterey County on June 19, 2008. Leave your cars at home and ride public transportation or other form of transportation. Benefits of using public transportation:

- Energy Conservation: Each year, public transportation use in the US saves 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline. This represents almost 4 million gallons of gasoline per day.
- Save Money: Each year public transportation households save over \$1,399 worth of gas.
- Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Improve Air Quality: Public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide (CO), 90 percent less in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and about half as much carbon dioxide (CO2) and nitrogen oxide (NOx), per passenger mile, as private vehicles. Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions represent 82 percent of total US human-made greenhouse emissions.

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS FOUND IN GONZALES AND SOLEDAD

The Transportation Agency approved the unmet transit needs finding for 2008-09 stating that new dial-a-ride transit service in the City of Gonzales is an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet. The City of Gonzales has expressed its desire that Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) be responsible for implementing this service, which would require approximately \$162,000 in its first year to establish, including vehicle purchase, with ongoing annual operations cost of between \$65,000-\$75,000/year according to the Salinas Valley Short Range Transit Plan prepared by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. Ridership is estimated to start at 11,000-passenger trips a year and grow. Another unmet transit need that the Agency determined to be reasonable to meet is additional service for the Soledad Taxi. This service would add additional hours to allow service to coordinate with the MST Line 23 schedule, which operates until approximately 8:30pm during weekdays. The extra service will cost an additional amount of approximately \$30,000 to operate.

NEW SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

The Transportation Agency approved Theresa Sullivan as the newest member of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council representing the Monterey County

Alliance on Aging and social services providers ages 60 and over. Ms. Sullivan is the Director of the Monterey County Alliance on Aging.