

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

May 26, 2010 Meeting

STATE PRESERVES SOME, CUTS SOME TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

At its May 20 meeting, the California Transportation Commission agreed to support funding for construction of critical projects in Monterey County in the next five years, with a few notable exceptions. Despite the shortfall of transportation funding, the state Commission agreed to continue to pay \$180 million for the construction of the Prunedale Improvement Project in 2010-11. The Prunedale Improvement Project is aimed at improving safety in the 8-mile corridor between Crazy Horse Canyon Road in North Monterey County and Russell Road in north Salinas. The project will construct 2 new interchanges at the north and south of the project and one overpass at Blackie Road/Reese Circle. A network of local frontage roads will connect travelers to safe crossings and nearly all left turns on US 101 will be eliminated with a median barrier. This project is expected to go to bid in early 2011, and may experience cost savings if bids continue to come in below cost estimates.

The Commission also agreed to fund the US 101-San Juan Interchange Project for construction in 2012-13. This new interchange near the Red Barn will continue the corridor of safety improvements on north US 101 and help reduce the congestion along this heavily traveled highway.

The State, however, voted to delay construction of the Highway 1 Climbing Lane near Carmel by four years, from 2010-11 to 2014-15. The County of Monterey intends to keep working under the original schedule and will ask for funding as soon as the project is ready to go to construction. In addition, the state did not include money for any new projects, including the proposed fly-under at Highway 1 at Highway 183 in Castroville, which would improve safety and traffic flow at this busy intersection. This project, along with other pending state highway needs, will be reevaluated in 2011 when the Transportation Agency submits its next request for state funding. At that time, some of the bid savings from current projects may be available to fund new projects.

EMISSION REDUCTION GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Monterey Bay Air Pollution Control District will award up to \$1.6 million in AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant funding to eligible projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions at the September 15, 2010 Board meeting.

The Transportation Agency approved grant applications for a Bicycle Sharing Feasibility and Implementation Study, and the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging station units and the participation in a joint application with Santa Cruz Ecology Action and Council of San Benito County Governments for a tri-county Bike Week campaign.

Other agencies' proposals are as follows:

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: Rideshare week campaign and a Bicycle and Pedestrian demand forecast model
- Monterey Salinas Transit: An operational study of Salinas area Transit Services
- California State University, Monterey Bay: Unlimited transit bus passes for students, covered bus shelters and car sharing program
- Monterey County: Fleet replacement of trucks and vehicles

GREENFIELD AND SOLEDAD RECEIVE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency allocated \$1.18 million in Local Transportation Funds to the City of Greenfield for public transit service, streets and roads projects. One hundred thousand dollars was also allocated to the City of Soledad for shuttle dial-a-ride service bus purchase, which may be operated by Monterey-Salinas Transit beginning in July, 2010.

CITY OF SEASIDE RECEIVES STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

The Transportation Agency allocated more than \$77,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Funds to the City of Seaside for the Del Monte Rehabilitation Project Phase II. Projects eligible for Regional Surface Transportation Program funding include local street and roadway rehabilitation, local match for federal transportation funds, bike lanes, pedestrian facilities, public transit capital, and signal coordination.