

## TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

**December 3, 2008 Meeting**

### **MEASURE Z: ANALYSIS OF RESULTS**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County discussed the results of Measure Z, the 25-year, ½ cent local transportation sales tax on the November 4 ballot. Sixty-two point fifty-five percent (62.55%) of Monterey County citizens voted in favor of the sales tax; however, 67% approval was required for the measure to take effect. A late start for the campaign, not enough money raised for the campaign and a challenging economy were the key reasons given for the measure's failure to gain the necessary 2/3 voter approval. The ½ cent sales tax would have contributed an estimated \$1 billion to a \$1.8 billion program of projects over 25 years, used to fund highway safety and congestion relief projects, local road and street maintenance, transit projects including increased frequency of bus service, regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities, smart growth transportation incentives and habitat mitigation for road projects. The local funds would have helped to secure an estimated \$800 million in state and federal matching funds and regional developer fees. Most regionally-important projects and services cannot be implemented over the next 25 years without these additional monies. Without the sales tax revenues, only a small portion of the projects in the plan can be completed, and other projects may be substantially delayed.

While many self-help counties, such as Santa Clara and Santa Barbara, will receive millions in the next few years from the state and federal government for transportation projects, those counties without matching local funds will be left out. If Measure Z had passed estimates show that Monterey County would have received \$7,745,000 in State Prop 1B bond funds.

Measure Z would have also completed the \$28.3 million local match needed to secure a \$28.3 million state grant plus an additional \$24.3 million of state contributions to fully fund the US 101-San Juan Road Interchange project, a project which includes a new interchange and safety improvements on US 101 in the vicinity of San Juan Road, near the Red Barn. The Transportation Agency will now need to find funding from other sources or take money from other projects to fully fund the \$90.6 million project.

One project that will be considerably delayed or not constructed if funding is not secured is the much needed widening of Highway 156 from two to four lanes between Castroville and US 101 and construction of a new interchange on Highway 156 near Castroville Boulevard and access improvements to the Oak Hills community as well as interchange modifications at US 101 and Highway 156.

With cuts in the state budget and without the transportation sales tax, funding for transit is also suffering in Monterey County. Monterey Salinas Transit is planning to increase fares this year as well as defer planned capital expenditures: purchasing buses, reducing debt payments for coaches already purchased, and filling vacant staff positions.

The next steps for the Transportation Agency will be to analyze how the lack of sales tax money will impact the delivery of projects over the next 20 years, and discuss alternative sources of funding for projects.

### **CARMEL HILL AND RIVER TRAIL PROJECT**

A community meeting to discuss alternatives and scoping for the Carmel Hill and River Trail Project will be held Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the County Courthouse in Monterey. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County agreed to fund a full Environmental Impact Report for the Carmel Hill and River Trail Project which will provide alternative transportation options, such as bicycling and walking for those traveling between the shopping centers, Carmel High School, residential and recreational areas near Highway 1. Initial construction will run within Hatton Canyon to just south of Rio Road and will include a new underpass to cross Carmel Valley Road. Construction of this segment of the Carmel Hill and River bike and walking trail is expected to begin in late 2009. Future segments of the Carmel Hill & River Trail will connect with other existing and planned future trail and conservation areas, including trails on the Monterey Peninsula to the north, planned new trails toward Carmel Valley to the east, new trails to the Carmel River and Lagoon areas to the west, and the Palo Corona conservation area to the south. The Transportation Agency will continue to work with the Big Sur Land Trust, and its other partner agencies to craft a project that meets both transportation and community needs.

### **MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SOUTH COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE**

The Transportation Agency awarded Monterey Salinas Transit and South Monterey County \$405,465 in federal transit funds for the operation of buses on rural routes, such as line 23 in South Monterey County and Line 24 in Carmel Valley. The intention of this federal grant is to provide public transportation and intercity bus service in areas with a population of 50,000 or less and to provide access to employment, education, health care, shopping and recreation in small towns and rural areas.

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY AWARDS**  
**TRANSPORTATION FUNDS TO MONTEREY COUNTY**  
**AND PACIFIC GROVE**

The Transportation Agency awarded \$239,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to Monterey County for four Monterey County projects:

*Russell Road at Van Buren Avenue Traffic Signal - \$20,000.* The project includes the installation of a traffic signal. The total estimated project cost is \$539,833.

*Blackie Road Phase II Safety Improvement Project - \$100,000.* The project includes shoulder widening, rumble strips. The total estimated project cost is \$1,000,000.

*San Juan Road Safety Improvement Project - \$45,000.* The project includes thermoplastic striping, rumble strips. The total estimated project cost is \$406,100.

*Countywide Guardrail Project - \$74,000.* This project includes extending, replacing, and or installing guardrail at eight locations in the County. The total estimated project cost is \$738,830.

The Transportation Agency awarded over \$131,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the City of Pacific Grove for citywide maintenance projects.

**BOARD MEMBERS APPRECIATED**

The Transportation Agency appreciated the following outgoing board members for their service:

- 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor: Ila Mettee-McCutchon
- Marina Mayor: Gary Wilmot
- Pacific Grove City Councilmember: Scott Miller
- Aide to District 4 Supervisor: Claudia Link

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2009 TERMS**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers for the 2009 calendar year as follows:

**Chair:** Frank Sollecito, Monterey City Council Member  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair:** Lou Calcagno, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair:** Steve Villegas, Salinas City Council Member

**2009 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**Board of Directors**

Unless otherwise noticed, all meetings held at the  
Agricultural Commission,  
1428 Abbott Street, Salinas  
9:00 a.m.

Month	Date	Day
January	28	Wednesday
February	25	Wednesday
March	25	Wednesday
April	22	Wednesday
May	27	Wednesday
June	24	Wednesday
<i>No July TAMC Board meeting</i>		
August	26	Wednesday
September	23	Wednesday
October	28	Wednesday
No November TAMC Board meeting due to <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
December	2	Wednesday