

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)**  
**SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS**  
**MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**FINAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2024, TAMC BOARD MEETING**

1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA 93901, Saffron Conference Room

Alternate locations: *168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Supervisor Alejo's Office*  
*68 South Street, Hingham, Massachusetts, Dave Potter*

<b>TAMC BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEC 23</b>	<b>JAN 24</b>	<b>FEB 24</b>	<b>MAR 24</b>	<b>APR 24</b>	<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>JUN 24</b>	<b>AUG 24</b>	<b>SEP 24</b>	<b>OCT 24</b>
Luis Alejo, Supr. Dist. 1, County Representative (Linda Gonzales, <del>Javier Gomez</del> )	P	P	P	P(A) (V)	P	P	P(A) (V)	P	P(A) (V)	P
Glenn Church, Supr. Dist. 2, (Marilyn Vierra, Leonie Gray)	P	P	P	P	P(A)	P	P	P	P	P
Chris Lopez, Supr. Dist. 3, (Priscilla Barba) Chair	P	P	P	P	P(A)	P(A)	P	P	P	P
Wendy Root Askew, Supr. Dist. 4, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair ( <del>Yuri Anderson</del> , Eric Mora)	P	P	P	P	P(A)	P(A)	P	P	P(A) (V)	P(A)
Mary Adams, Supr. Dist. 5, (Colleen Courtney)	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P(A)	P	P	P	P	P
Dave Potter, Carmel-by-the-Sea (Jeff Baron) 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	P	P	P	P(V)	P(A)	P	P	P(V)	P	P
Scott Donaldson, Del Rey Oaks (John Uy)	P	E	AB2	P(V)	P	P	P	P	P	E
Jose Rios, Gonzales (Lorraine Worthy)	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rachel Ortiz, Greenfield (Robert White)	P	E	P	A	P	P	E	P	AB2	P
Michael LeBarre, King City, Past Chair (Carlos DeLeon)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Bruce Delgado, Marina (Jenny McAdams, Liesbeth Visscher)	P	P*	P	E	P	AB2	P	P	A	P(V)
Edwin Smith, Monterey, (Kim Barber, Marissa Garcia, Andrea Renny)	P	P(A)	P	P	P	P(A)	P	P	PA)	P
Chaps Poduri, Pacific Grove, City Representative (Joe Amelio)	P	P	P	P	A	E	P(V)	P	P	P
Andrew Sandoval, Salinas (Anthony Rocha)	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P(A)
Mary Ann Carbone, Sand City (Jerry Blackwelder)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Ian Oglesby, Seaside, (David Pacheco)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Fernando Cabrera, Soledad (Anna Velasquez)	P*	E	P	E	P	P	P(A)	P	P	P



**OTHERS PRESENT**

Linda Gonzales	County Supervisor District 1	Tony Hassis	Public
Javier Gomez	County Supervisor District 1	Mason Clark	Handcar Tours
Jasmine Mejia Cortez	County Supervisor District 1	Dwight Stump	Public
Monica Hale	County Supervisor District 3	Bryan Rosen	Public
Michael Weaver	Public	Barry Jones	Public
Ken & Ometa Herman	Public	Eric Petersen	Public
Harry Dixon	Public	Lorna Moffat	Public
Greg Galin	Public	Steve Grace	Public
Terry Russell	Public	John Pinto	Public
Nick Belli	Public	Brian Jacobson	Public
Gary Cursio	Public	Bob Meyer	Public
Wesley Little	Public	Mike Mueller	Public

**1. QUORUM CHECK – CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Elouise Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board, called the roll and confirmed a quorum was established. Board Member Oglesby led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bryan Rosen, resident, commented on the SURF! Busway Route.

Lorna Moffat, resident, commented on carpool programs.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C** Alejo/Potter/unanimous

Board Members Cabrera, Ortiz and Rocha did not vote on this item.

The Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

**ADMINISTRATION and BUDGET**

- 3.1.1** Approved the minutes of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways, and the Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency for Monterey County meeting of September 25, 2024.
- 3.1.2** Accepted the list of checks written for the month of September 2024 and credit card statements for the months of August and September 2024.
- 3.1.3** Received list of contracts awarded under \$50,000.
- 3.1.4** Received report on conferences or trainings attended by agency staff.
- 3.1.5** Approved Resolution 2024-13 authorizing the Executive Director to execute a new Caltrans Master Funds Transfer Agreement.
- 3.1.6** Regarding Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Overall Work Program Amendment #2:  
Approved Resolution 2024-14, pending legal counsel approval, providing:
  - 1. Authority for the Executive Director or his designee to transfer \$948,590.63 in state Rural Planning Assistance, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5304 Strategic Partnership, and State Highway Account (SHA) Climate Adaptation Planning carry-over funds into the Agency's fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 work program and budget;
  - 2. Authority for the Executive Director or his designee to execute work program and budget amendment No. 2 in accordance with this Resolution; and
  - 3. Authority for the Executive Director or his designee to execute all Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation.
- 3.1.7** Accepted the Agency's Financial Audit Reports for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

**3.1.8** Regarding Updated Legal Services Agreement with the County of Monterey

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to execute a new Legal Services Agreement with the County of Monterey, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, to increase the budget by an amount not to exceed \$5,638, for an annual not-to-exceed contract amount of \$66,000;
2. Authorized the use of Agency funds budgeted for this work; and
3. Authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the contract, including approval of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved contract term or amount.

***BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, TRANSIT and SOCIAL SERVICES*****3.2.1** Received the draft Salinas Valley Safe Routes to Schools Plan.***PLANNING*****3.3.1** Legislative Update and Draft 2025 Legislative Program:

1. Received update on state and federal legislative issues; and
2. Approved the draft 2025 legislative program for circulation to Committees for comment.

***PROJECT DELIVERY and PROGRAMMING*****3.4.1** Regarding Alisal Union School District Agreement

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to execute an agreement with Alisal Union School District, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, to allow TAMC and partners to provide Safe Routes to School Education & Encouragement programming to Alisal Union schools for the period ending June 30, 2030; and
2. Authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the contract, including approvals of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved contract term or amount.

**3.4.2** Approved the appointment of John McPherson to serve as the Senior or Disabled Services agency representative on the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee, Brielle Bumba to serve as the Senior or Disabled services agency alternate representative on the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee, and Bradley Levang to serve as the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce alternate representative on the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee.

### **RAIL PROGRAM**

- 3.5.1** Regarding Monterey County Rail Extension - Packages 2 & 3 - Right of Way Just Compensation:
1. Authorized the Executive Director to establish just compensation and approve appraisals for rights-of-way for the Monterey County Rail Extension project, Package 2 (Salinas layover facility) and Package 3 (Gilroy track connections); and
  2. Authorized the Executive Director to make purchase offers in the amount that equals the statutory offer of just compensation established for the parcel and negotiate agreements for parcels needed for the Monterey County Rail Extension project.

### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE**

- 3.6.1** No items this month.

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3.7.1** Accepted draft minutes from Transportation Agency committees:
- Executive Committee – draft minutes of October 2, 2024
  - Rail Policy Committee – No meeting
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee – draft minutes of October 2, 2024
  - Technical Advisory Committee – draft minutes of October 3, 2024
  - Excellent Transportation Oversight Committee – No meeting
- 3.7.2** Received Transportation Agency for Monterey County correspondence for September 2024.

### **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

## **4. PRESENT THE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

The Board of Directors presented the Transportation Agency Employee of the Quarter to Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant for July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

The Agency employees recognized Maria for her professionalism and her efficiency, for always being willing to help and most notably for her work on agenda preparation and support with TAMC committee meetings. Her diligence in taking on an extra workload assisting with the check deposits, helping with the account payables, and keeping accounting related files and credit card charges up to date. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, it is our great pleasure to recognize Maria Montiel for her exemplary service.

## 5. **FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR ADAPTIVE SIGNAL OPERATIONS ALONG HIGHWAY 68**

**M/S/C** Adams/Potter/unanimous

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to fund the purchase and installation of adaptive signal controls at nine intersections along State Route 68. This project aims to improve traffic flow and safety by using real-time data to adjust signal timing, thereby reducing congestion and travel times.

The adaptive signal control technology adjusts the timing of red, yellow, and green lights to accommodate changing traffic patterns and ease traffic congestion. Unlike traditional traffic signals, which operate on fixed timings, adaptive signals use real-time data from sensors and cameras to optimize traffic flow. This technology is particularly beneficial during peak travel times and special events when traffic volumes can vary significantly.

The adaptive signal operations will serve as an interim solution, complementing the long-term improvements identified for the Scenic Highway 68 Corridor. The Board allocated \$500,000 in Regional Measure X funds for this purpose, demonstrating a significant investment in enhancing the efficiency of this critical transportation corridor. By implementing adaptive signal operations, TAMC and Caltrans aim to provide a smoother and more reliable travel experience for commuters and residents along State Route 68.

Public comment:

- Dwight Stump expressed the need to implement the technology at all nine intersections.
- Barry Jones commented that he is pleased to see four intersections recommended and noted the need to optimize the whole corridor.
- Bryan Rosen commented that development is out of control.
- Mike Weaver thanked Doug Bilse and expressed his support for all nine intersections.
- Gary Cursio expressed support for moving forward with the trial program.

## 6. **TORO PARK CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC PILOT PROJECT UPDATE**

The Board of Directors received an update on the Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Pilot Project.

Doug Bilse, Principal Engineer, reported aggressive drivers frequently use Toro Park residential streets to avoid Highway 68 congestion during the morning commute hours. TAMC, Caltrans, and County staff collaborated on a pilot project to reroute this cut-through traffic back onto Highway 68. Two phases of the pilot project have been completed, including partial road closures. The pilot project is expected to identify a long-term solution that may be considered for implementation by the County of Monterey.

Highway 68 experiences severe congestion westbound during the normal morning commute hours each weekday. This leads many drivers heading towards the Monterey Peninsula to exit Highway 68 and use Portola Drive as an alternate route to bypass a few vehicles queued on Highway 68. This cut-through traffic resulted in severe congestion along Portola Drive as well as adjacent residential streets where some residents could not even exit their driveways because of the queues formed by these drivers. Aggressive cut-through driving near the Toro Park Elementary School grounds led to safety concerns and otherwise negatively impacted the character of the neighborhood and quality of life for the residents.

Public comment:

- Greg Galin commented that the closure is a hardship, and presented a petition with 219 signatures to “Move the Unfair Torero Road Closure in Toro Park, Monterey County to Portola east of Torero.”
- John Pinto, Toro Park resident, commented on the impact the bypass has caused on his street, cars on both sides of the street not allowing room for emergency vehicles to get through.
- Nick Belly, resident of impacted street, expressed his appreciation for what the county has done.
- Mike Fuller, Toro Park resident, commented that the merge needs to be examined.
- Terry Russell commented that he has been a part of the project since it started, he thanked Doug Bilse and noted the community needed this project.
- Mark Kennedy, Homeowners Board, concurred with Terry Russell.
- Bob Meyer, Toro Park resident, thanked Doug Bilse for stopping bypass traffic through Toro Park.

Board Member Adams thanked Caltrans and Doug, noting there is no easy fix, but the project has top-notch people giving their time to find a solution.



Board Member Smith requested a future presentation considering options for bus gate and California Highway Patrol support.

**7. US 101 SOUTH OF SALINAS NOTICE OF PREPARATION REPORT**

The Board of Directors received an update on the US 101 South of Salinas project.

Meg Henry, Caltrans, reported that the Notice of Preparation for this project was circulated, marking a significant step forward in addressing safety and operational deficiencies along this critical corridor. The project aims to improve the transportation network between Chualar and Salinas by reducing points of conflict and enhancing safety for all users. Proposed improvements include new interchanges, access control measures, and modifications to the existing road network.

The project team has narrowed the study area down to two potential locations for new interchanges: one near Chualar and another near Abbott Street south of Salinas. These locations were selected based on their potential to improve traffic flow and safety while minimizing impacts on the surrounding community and environment. The environmental phase of the project is funded with \$10 million in State Transportation Improvement Program funds. Caltrans has also identified near-term safety improvements that may be installed in advance of the long-term solutions under review. These improvements are expected to be fully funded by Caltrans through the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Board Member Alejo expressed his appreciation to Chair Lopez for all his efforts.

Public comment:

- Eric Petersen, resident, commented that bicycle access is needed.

## 8. **REPORTS FROM TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS**

Caltrans District 5 – John Olejnik announced the following:

- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is pleased to announce the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program workshops.
- Caltrans will begin the removal of deceased Eucalyptus trees along south of U.S.101, this may have 1 to 2 lane closures at night beginning November 3, 2024.

Monterey Regional Airport District – Carl Miller announced the following:

- The Airport District is continuing towards construction of the new terminal project and parking lot.
- Fly Monterey!

Monterey Salinas Transit District – Carl Sedoryk announced the following:

- MST Line 23 surge of ridership, one of the busiest routes, looking at other options possibly a double decker bus.
- The Monterey-Salinas Transit Board of Directors recently approved increasing the monthly subsidy for Commute with Enterprise Vanpool program participants from \$450 to \$500 per month per vehicle.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District:

- Air District announced Diesel tractors and off-road equipment program open offering up to \$150,000 to replace old tractors with new cleaner tractors
- Air District will be holding Community Air Protection workshops on the following dates:
  - October 28, 2024, 10:30 a.m., at the Marina Library
  - October 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m., at the Agricultural Center
  - October 30, 2024, online

## 9. **REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS AT AGENCY EXPENSE**

Mike LeBarre and Dave Potter attended 2024 California Passenger Rail Summit on October 10-11, 2024 in San Diego.

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Todd Muck announced the following:

- California State Transportation Agency has approved a \$63 million grant to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council application led by San Luis Obispo, which includes \$25 million for the King City Station.
- Measure X Annual Report drafts are due at the beginning of December.
- Next TAMC Board meeting is on December 4, 2024, there will be no meeting in November.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

None this month.

**12. CLOSED SESSION MONTEREY BRANCH LINE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** on the Closed Session:

- Kenneth Herman expressed opposition to the bus line through Marina and support for the hand cars.
- Brian Jacobsen requested the Board allow the hand cars to continue using the tracks.
- Mason Clark, Co-Owner of the Museum of Hand Cars, commented that the business is a tremendous economic benefit to Marina and asked the Board to support a lease extension.
- Mike Mueller urged the Board to compromise and allow the hand cars to continue operating.
- Wesley Little, employee of Hand Cars, asked that the Board support hand car tours and extend the lease.
- Carl Sedoryk, MST, reported that MST has worked collaboratively with TAMC, noting it is important to start pre-construction before the winter.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

1. **REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS.** Pursuant to Government Code section §54956.8, confer with real property negotiators concerning the disposition of Agency-owned property.

Property: Monterey Branch Line

Agency negotiators: Todd Muck, Mike Zeller, Alissa Guther

Negotiating parties: City of Marina  
Under negotiation: Length of contract

2. **POTENTIAL LITIGATION.** Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of potential initiation of litigation.

**RECONVENED:**

The Board reconvened in open session and agency counsel Strong reported no reportable actions were taken.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 12:46 a.m.