

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE

JOINT POWERS AGENCY

FINAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024, TAMC BOARD MEETING

168 West Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901, Monterey Conference Room

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Javier Gomez	Supervisor District 1 office	Chad Stoehr	Caltrans District 5
Monica Hale	Supervisor District 3 office	Eric Petersen	Salinas resident
Dwight Stump	Corral de Tierra resident	Justin Estassi	Boyds Asphalt
Shawn Boyle	Monterey Bay Air Resources Dist	Regina Valentine	AMBAG
Octavio Hurtado	King City, Public Works Director	Lisa Rheinheimer	Monterey-Salinas Transit

1. QUORUM CHECK – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Elouise Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board, called the roll and confirmed a quorum was established. Past Chair LeBarre led the pledge of allegiance.

Board Member Scott Donaldson notified the body of his need to participate remotely for just cause pursuant to AB 2449, including a general description of the circumstances relating to his need. This meeting is Member Donaldson’s first just cause meeting this calendar year (2024).

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dwight Stump, resident, commented on the proposed roundabouts on Highway 68.

Keith Marshall, resident, commented on the proposed roundabouts on Highway 68.

Barry Jones, resident, commented on the proposed roundabouts on Highway 68.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Lopez/Alejo/unanimous

The Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

ADMINISTRATION and BUDGET

3.1.1 Approved 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 January 24, 2024.

3.1.2 Accepted the list of checks written for the month of January 2024 and credit card statements for the months of December 2023.

- 3.1.3 Received list of contracts awarded under \$50,000.
- 3.1.4 Received report on conferences and trainings attended by agency staff.
- 3.1.5 Adopted the revised Travel Policy.

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, TRANSIT and SOCIAL SERVICES

- 3.2.1 Adopted Resolution 2024-04 apportioning \$21,000,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 Local Transportation Funds to Monterey-Salinas Transit.

Board Member Smith pulled this item from consent to highlight the \$21,000,000 federal funding apportionment.

- 3.2.2 Regarding City of Soledad Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:
 - 1. Approved the request by the City of Soledad to program RSTP funds dedicated to the City's Participatory Budgeting process to the following projects:
 - Orchard Ln and Gabilan Dr Pedestrian Improvements in the amount of \$63,000;
 - Main and Gabilan Intersection Improvements in the amount of \$135,250;
 - Benito and Gabilan Pedestrian Improvements in the amount of \$11,000; and
 - Orchard Ln Pedestrian Improvements in the amount of \$23,000;
 - 2. Approved amending Exhibit A of the local funding agreement to include these projects and funding.

- 3.2.3 Regarding SURF! Busway Measure X Funding Agreements:
 - 1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to execute a Measure X funding agreement for Consultant Construction Management Oversight Services for the SURF! Busway project with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, for an amount not to exceed \$5,685,600;
 - 2. Authorized the use of Measure X funds budgeted to this project;
 - 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 approvals of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved contract term or amount.
- 3.2.4 Noticed proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee (BPC) bylaws to add a clause about BPC Members' responsibility to be a bridge to their jurisdictions overseeing local bicycle and pedestrian facility-related needs and developments.

PLANNING

- 3.3.1** Approved allocation of additional Measure X Safe Routes to School program funds to support the Salinas Valley Safe Routes to School Plan and Participatory Budgeting process for a not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000.
- 3.3.2** Regarding Monterey County Regional Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Request for Proposals:
1. Approved the Scope of Work for the Request for Proposals for a consultant for the Monterey County Regional Transportation Vulnerability Assessment;
 2. Authorized staff to publish the Request of Proposals and return to the Board with a recommendation for approval of a consultant, including the final scope of work; and
 3. Approved the use of Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning grant funds for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$342,168.

PROJECT DELIVERY and PROGRAMMING

- 3.4.1** Regarding Grant Preparation Assistance:
1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director to execute a contract with Mark Thomas, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, in an amount not-to-exceed \$149,900 to provide grant preparation assistance services through June 30, 2027;
 2. Approved the use of Measure X funds budgeted to this project; and
 3. Authorized the Executive Director 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, subject to approval by Agency Counsel.
- 3.4.2** Approved the appointment of Maria Vera to serve as the Building Healthy Communities Monterey County representative on the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee; Andrea Manzo as the alternate representative; and Matine Watkins to serve as the Monterey Peninsula Hospitality Association representative; and Gary Cursio, to serve as their alternate representative.

RAIL PROGRAM

- 3.5.1** No items this month.

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 February 7, 2024
- Rail Policy Committee – draft minutes of February 5, 2024
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee – draft minutes of February 7, 2024
- Technical Advisory Committee – draft minutes of February 1, 2024
- Excellent Transportation Oversight Committee – No Meeting

3.7.2 Received Transportation Agency for Monterey County correspondence for February 2024.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Presented the Transportation Agency Employee of the Quarter to Theresa Wright.

The Agency recognized Theresa Wright for her professionalism and her diligence in handling media coverage, writing news releases, and preparing the weekly Cone Zone Construction Report. Most notably, employees appreciate her outstanding job coordinating public outreach efforts for the Scenic Highway 68 project, the US 101 South of Salinas project, and the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough project.

5. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the unmet transit needs process and held a public hearing, there were no comments, Chair Lopez closed the public hearing.

Aaron Hernandez, Transportation Planner, presented on the unmet needs process associated with the Local Transportation Fund (LTF), which is one of two designated funding sources for public transit created by the California Transportation Development Act (TDA). As Monterey-Salinas Transit District members, every city in the county allocates its annual fund apportionment to Monterey-Salinas Transit for public transit services.

Prior to allocating these transit funds, the Agency is required to provide for a public hearing and outreach to identify unmet transit needs. Because the Transportation Agency no longer allocates transit funds to local streets and roads, the Agency is no longer required to adopt a finding on unmet transit needs. However, the Agency continues to solicit public input on unmet transit needs and places comments into the following categories:

- Transit service improvement requests that would improve an existing service.
- Transit service expansion requests that extend a transit route beyond its current limits and fill a gap in service.
- Capital improvement projects that would enhance existing public transit facilities.

All comments are reviewed with Monterey-Salinas Transit staff to consider options to implement requests and to evaluate comments based on the Unmet Transit Needs Criteria and time frame in which unmet transit needs can be met. The unmet transit needs comments list serves as a public input tool for the Transportation Agency's short- and long-term transit planning and improvements.

The Transportation Agency's deadline for accepting public comments and questionnaires for the consideration as part of the annual unmet transit needs process is April 30, 2024.

6. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECT

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County discussed and provided direction to staff related to possible community funding project nominations for federal appropriations funding for the following projects:

- Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 climate resiliency project planning and environmental phase, in Representative Jimmy Panetta's district
- King City Multimodal Station project, in Representative Zoe Lofgren's district

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that March is the deadline for project nominations for the fiscal year 2025 federal appropriations bill. Projects must be eligible for federal funding and must be able to obligate the funds, get the project under contract by 2028 and expend the funds by 2032. Successful requests for funding typically fully fund a phase of the project, so it helps if the project, or a phase of the project, is already mostly funded. It is possible to submit more than one project for this funding.

The Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 climate resiliency project secured a \$1 million state allocation from Assembly Member Dawn Addis and State Senator John Laird. TAMC staff applied for federal and state grant funding to complete a Preliminary Environmental Linkages report, the first step towards federal and state environmental clearance, and to develop a Project Initiation Document with Caltrans. A federal earmark would help the project complete those phases of work and get the project ready to move into the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase.

The King City Multimodal Station project has secured approximately \$14 million from state funds and \$5 million from Amtrak and is seeking federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding to fully fund construction of the platform and track improvements in King

City. A federal earmark would help the project complete the National Environmental Policy Act review required for federal funding.

7. **SAND CITY BIKE TRAIL AND PARKING PROPOSAL**

M/S/C Askew/LeBarre/unanimous

Board directed staff to coordinate with Sand City on considerations for a possible future use agreement for an alignment of a trail that avoids conflict with future mass transit users and for fair market value lease agreements for non-trail uses such as parking.

The Board received a presentation on the Sand City bike trail and parking proposal from Zane Mortensen, Sand City's interim City Planner. He reported that the proposal seeks to create a one-mile segment of multi-use trail and two parking areas within the TAMC-owned Monterey Branch Line right-of-way. The proposal promises that the "proposed multi-use trail will take into consideration the future use of the TAMC corridor for rail and/or bus transit and would not obstruct any of the existing rail infrastructure" and would "minimize conflict with the existing property leases." Sand City was awarded a \$250,000 Monterey Bay Air Resources District AB2766 Clean Vehicle Program grant to support planning and design.

Director Muck noted that we currently have leases revenue that we use to keep the Monterey Branch Line right of way clean. He noted that all our leases can be cancelled with appropriate notification when the property is needed for transportation uses. Board Member Askew expressed her support for the project, noting Sand City's proposals will be consistent with our vision for rail on the corridor. Ms. Askew also noted Sand City's planned growth is significant and trail connections and the SURF! busway would be beneficial to support higher population density in this area.

Public comment:

Eric Petersen, Salinas resident, commented he hopes this project follows the Caltrans Manual and avoids chip sealing for bicyclists.

Scott Donaldson, City of Del Rey Oaks, emphasized the importance of public outreach.

8. DRAFT OVERALL WORK PROGRAM, BUDGET, AND INTEGRATED FUNDING STRATEGY

M/S/C Alejo/Askew/unanimous

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the Draft Overall Work Program, Budget, and Integrated Funding Strategy, and:

1. Authorized the Executive Director to submit the draft fiscal year 24/25 Overall Work Program to Caltrans for initial review;
2. Provided direction and guidance to staff on the three-year budget for fiscal years 24/25 through 26/27, the Overall Work Program for fiscal year 24/25, and the 2024 Integrated Funding Strategy; and
3. Directed the Executive Director to bring the final three-year budget, one-year Overall Work Program, and the 2024 Integrated Funding Strategy back to the Board on May 22, 2024 for approval.

Mike Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery, reviewed the annual Overall Work Program and Integrated Funding Strategy which describes the activities to be accomplished during the fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. After the draft Overall Work Plan is approved, staff will submit it to Caltrans for feedback. Agency staff then incorporates comments from Caltrans into to a final proposed Overall Work Program to be presented to the Board in May with the fiscal year 2024/25 budget.

Jeff Kise, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the Agency budget separates expenditures into operating and direct programs. Operating expenditures include salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, and equipment, noting staff is including a 3.8% cost of living increase to keep pace with inflation and stay competitive with other agencies.

Public comment:

Rita Goel, Salinas resident, expressed concerns and had questions about the specifics in the budget.

9. REPORTS FROM TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Caltrans District 5 – Orchid Monroy Ochoa, highlighted Caltrans District 5 construction, road closures, and repairs:

- Repairs have been started on the Dolan Slide on Highway 1, possibly opening on March 8th.
- The Paul Slide on Highway 1 is targeted to fully open in late spring.
- In Monterey Counties, Near Big Sur, Limekiln Creek Bridge to south of Castro Canyon Bridge Storm Damage Repairs have started.

Monterey Regional Airport District – Carl Miller announced the following:

- The airport is proceeding with their new terminal; the plans are going as scheduled.
- The airport has 300,000 passengers per year and hopes to increase and add additional service in the future.

Monterey Salinas Transit District – Michelle Overmeyer announced the following:

- MST held a bus driver skills course event and had an on -site recruitment for coach operators, and made 23 contingent job offers, looking forward to being fully staffed soon.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District – No Report this month.

10. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS AT AGENCY EXPENSE

Board member LeBarre attended the CALCOG Regional Leadership Forum in Monterey on February 7, and Board members LeBarre and Potter Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) Policy Meeting in Oakland on February 16.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Todd Muck announced the following:

- Welcome Amelia Conlen, Senior Transportation Planner.
- Next TAMC Board meeting will be held at the Government Center, Cayenne Conference Room, 1441 Schilling Place.
- Bill Reichmuth, former TAMC Executive Director and City of Monterey Public Works Director has passed; Bill's funeral service will be at the Carmel Mission on April 17, 10 am.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

Board member Alejo commended the Safe Routes to School Program's partnership with the City of Salinas to install two roundabouts to help the flow of traffic near Bardin Elementary.

Colleen Courtney, Alternate, commented on behalf of Board Member Adams to thank staff for the Toro Park homeowners meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.