

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

March 23, 2022



TAMC Prioritizes State Route 156 Project to Access Federal Earmarks

After a presentation by their state and federal analysts and a robust discussion, the Transportation Agency Board of Directors took positions on several state bills that would impact transportation funding and project delivery; and approved a motion to prioritize the State Route 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project to apply for federal funds for escalated project construction costs due to the pandemic. Construction on the “shovel ready” project is expected to begin early next year.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is the first of three segments of the larger regional State Route 156 Corridor project, a new four-lane expressway parallel to the existing route, which would then become a frontage road for North County residents, a new US 101/State Route 156 Interchange.

Unsolicited Proposals for Monterey Branch Line Recreational Use

TAMC staff sought direction from the Transportation Agency’s Board of Directors on how to respond to two unsolicited proposals for recreational uses for operations on the Monterey Branch Line. One proposal is a request from the Museum of Handcar Technology for long-term handcar operations on the Monterey Branch Line corridor; the other is an unsolicited proposal from the Mendocino Railway company for use of the same section of the branch line for recreational use of railbike operations.

Since neither entity offers a service that meets TAMC's mission, the Board considered the following options in their discussion:

- per the adopted unsolicited proposals policy, the Board could direct staff to reject both proposals; or
- direct staff to proceed with a competitive procurement for a recreational use of the rail line corridor; or
- lease the portion of the Monterey Branch Line to be used for recreational purposes to the City of Marina.

After discussion in which the Board expressed support for using the Branch Line corridor for recreational purposes on a temporary basis, the Board unanimously directed staff to proceed with executing a lease agreement with the City of Marina for the coordination of a request for proposals for a recreational use of the Branch Line corridor, contingent upon the following:

- the MST SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project remains the top priority for the Branch Line and nothing in the lease agreement will impede the progress of that project;
- as the property owner, TAMC will be involved in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process;
- TAMC will coordinate with the selected vendor on any required permits from the California Public Utilities Commission;
- Marina will ensure the cost recovery of TAMC staff expenses; and
- Marina will consult with the TAMC Rail Policy Committee on the lease agreement.

Terms for the lease agreement with the City of Marina will be brought back to the Board of Directors for authorization to proceed.



Caltrans Announces New Dedicated Litter Crew Assigned to Monterey County

Tim Gubbins, Director, Caltrans District 5 announced that a new nine-member litter crew has been hired and will be based in their Salinas office to clean-up litter along local portions of the highways in the region.