



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members are: Mary Adams, Chair; Michael LeBarre, 1st Vice Chair; Chris Lopez, 2nd Vice Chair; Ed Smith, Past Chair; Wendy Askew, County Representative; Kimbley Craig, City Representative

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

****8:30 AM****

REMOTE CONFERENCE ONLY

There will be NO physical location of the meeting.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of the agenda.

Join meeting online at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/775161178?pwd=STY4UzZZblpOK0VLdEs3RGZUS3kyUT09>

OR

Via teleconference at +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 775 161 178

Password: 536047

1. ROLL CALL

Call to order and self-introductions. If you are unable to attend, please contact Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of Transportation Agency and Executive Committee. Comments on items on today's agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: If requested, the agenda shall be made

available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

- 3.1 APPROVE** the Executive Committee draft minutes of November 2, 2022.

- Rodriguez

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. RECEIVE** update on state and federal legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors adopt the final 2023 legislative program.

- Watson

Staff and consultants will present updates on state and federal legislative activities and present the 2023 legislative program.

- 5. RECEIVE** report and **SELECT** nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards for 2022.

- Wright

The Transportation Agency received two nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards by the deadline of Friday, December 2, 2022. The awards ceremony to recognize the honorees will be held during the January 25, 2023 Board meeting.

- 6. RECEIVE** report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting.

- Muck

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. ADJOURN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Executive Committee meeting:
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:

**Elouise Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board &
Senior Administrative Assistant
Elouise@tamcmonterey.org**

Important Meeting Information

Remote Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhanced State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allowed local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. That order expired on September 30, 2021. Governor Newsom has now signed AB 361, and the TAMC Board of Directors approved a resolution to enact AB 361 on September 22, 2021. This legislation permits teleconferencing for Brown Act meetings during a state of emergency. Thus, TAMC meetings will convene remotely, until further notice. For remote meetings, the public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during remote meetings. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public review at the Agency website. Agency contact

information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
www.tamcmonterey.org
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice
TEL: 831-775-0903
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

CORRESPONDENCE, MEDIA CLIPPINGS, AND REPORTS - No items this month.



Memorandum

To: Executive Committee
From: Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant and Clerk of the Board
Meeting Date: January 11, 2023
Subject: **Executive Committee draft minutes of November 2, 2022**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the Executive Committee draft minutes of November 2, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ▣ Executive Committee draft minutes of November 2, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY COUNTY
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members: Mary Adams (Chair), Michael LeBarre (1st Vice Chair),
Chris Lopez (2nd Vice Chair), Ed Smith (Past Chair),
Wendy Root Askew (County representative), Kimbley Craig (City representative)*

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

*** 8:30 a.m. ***

REMOTE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE ONLY

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | JAN 22 | FEB 22 | MAR 22 | APR 22 | MAY 22 | JUN 22 | AUG 22 | SEP 22 | OCT 22 | NOV 22 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Adams, Chair Supr. Dist. 5 (S. Hardgrave, C. Courtney) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) |
| Michael LeBarre, 1st Vice Chair King City (C. DeLeon) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) |
| Chris Lopez, 2nd Vice Chair Supr. Dist. 3 (P. Barba) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) |
| Ed Smith, Past Chair Monterey (D. Albert, A. Renny) | P (VC) | E | P (VC) | P (VC) | A | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) |
| Wendy Root Askew, County Representative Supr. Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson) | E | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P(A) (VC) |
| Kimbley Craig, City Representative Salinas (C. Cromeenes) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P(A) (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) | P (VC) |

TC: via teleconference; VC: via video conference

P = Present

A = Absent

P(A) = alternate present

E = Excused

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Goel, Muck, Rodriguez, Strause, Watson, and Zeller.

Others present: Robert Brayer, County Counsel; and Colleen Courtney, District 5 alternate.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment

3. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Committee Member Craig, seconded by Committee Member Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of October 5, 2022.

4. APPOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On a motion by Committee Chair Adams, seconded by Committee Member Craig, the Committee recommended that the Board of Directors appoint Committee members Adams and Smith as the Nominating Committee to meet and return to Board of Directors on January 25, 2023 with recommendations for Board Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Executive Committee to serve one-year terms beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the beginning of the January 24, 2024 Board meeting.

5. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS FY 23/24

The Committee provided direction and guidance to staff on assumptions for the three-year budget for fiscal years 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26.

Rita Goel, Director of Finance & Administration, reported that the Agency budget separates expenditures into two types: operating and direct programs. Operating expenditures include slight changes year to year for staff salaries and benefits, materials and services, and capital outlay. Direct program expenditures include some fluctuations for contracts, outside consultants, and ongoing project and program delivery with continuous funding such as Freeway Service Patrol and Call Boxes.

Ms. Goel noted that TAMC continues to maintain a fund balance of a minimum of 6 months of operating cost and continues to manage efficiently.

After a robust discussion, the Committee recommended that the draft operating budget to be presented in February include both a 3 and 4% cost of living increase.

6. TAMC 2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Committee recommended that the Board approve calendar year 2023 schedule of meetings for Agency Board of Directors and Executive Committee and provided direction to staff related to the potential to have hybrid meetings.

Director Muck reported that until February 28, 2023, the meetings can continue to be held via remote conferencing under the Governor's declared state of emergency, which is expected to be lifted on February 28, 2023. Chair Adams recommended that we start in-person Board meetings in January or February. Director Muck noted that the Board of Directors meetings could be held at the Agricultural Commissioner's Conference Room or Air Resources District. Committee member Lopez suggested that staff investigate the County's Monterey Room, or the County conference rooms at Schilling Place that could accommodate the TAMC Board meeting.

Director Muck noted that TAMC Committee meetings may continue to be held via Zoom until February 28, 2023, and staff is looking at whether citizens' Committees are required to follow Brown Act Rules.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, reported that Board and Committee members who need to participate using videoconference in a meeting are required to turn on their video throughout the meeting, cannot use videoconference more than two meetings per year, and must have a declared personal emergency to do so. She noted that there is no longer a requirement to post the location where you will attend on the agendas, but that any member using videoconference must announce the presence of anyone over the age of 18 in the room from which they are participating.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Committee held a closed session regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section §54957 – Position: Executive Director.

The Committee reconvened in open session:

Agency Counsel Brayer reported no reportable actions taken.

8. TAMC BOARD DRAFT AGENDA

Executive Director Todd Muck reviewed the draft regular and consent agenda for the TAMC Board meeting of December 7, 2022. After Executive Committee discussion, directions were provided to staff to place the following items for consideration on the regular agenda:

- Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan
- The Ralph M. Brown Act update

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None this month.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.



Memorandum

To: Executive Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: January 11, 2023
Subject: Legislative Update & Final 2023 Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on state and federal legislative issues and **RECOMMEND** the Board of Directors adopt the final 2023 legislative program.

SUMMARY:

Staff and consultants will present updates on state and federal legislative activities and present the 2023 legislative program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The legislative program continues a focus on preserving and seeking transportation funding.

DISCUSSION:

State Agency legislative analyst Gus Khouri will present an update on state legislative activities, federal Agency legislative analyst Paul Schlesinger will present an update on federal legislative activities, and staff will present the final Agency legislative program for 2023.

Attachment 1 is the final legislative program, showing changes from the draft program. **Attachment 2** is the final program, with changes accepted. Changes from the draft program approved by the TAMC Board in October are as follows:

- Multiple locations: delete the word "alternative" and replace with more precise language, e.g. "clean transportation modes" and "zero-emission fuel initiatives" (3S, 4S and 14S).
- Add in references to hydrogen power (4S and 1F(4)).
- Restore some priorities that were proposed for deletion in the October draft (6S, 12S and 3F).
- Restore and reframe priority for additional funding for the Active Transportation Program (10S), since the 2022 infusion of funding was a one-time event.
- Delete priorities related to the 5-year authorization bill that are unlikely to be brought up in 2023 (1F).
- Add more precise language related to military installations (1F(3)).
- Add in support for climate resiliency and adaptation grant applications (1F(5)).
- Add new priority for supporting Federal rail funding for the Coast Route, now that the Federal Railroad Administration has new grant funding responsibilities.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2023 Legislative Program, showing changes from draft
- 2023 Legislative Program

2023 Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S. Preserve funding for all modes of transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting for infrastructure needs. Advocate for proportionality on the application of vehicle miles traveled metrics in comparison to larger metro areas in the state, particularly for completing multi-modal corridors or highway projects in less densely populated or disadvantaged areas of the county, to increase safety for commuters, enhance routes needed for evacuation from climate events, goods movement, and tourism travel.
- 2S. Leverage Measure X funds and partner with state agencies to pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, public transportation, infrastructure resiliency, and bicycle and pedestrian routes for Monterey County projects.
- 3S. Promote jobs-housing balance and alternative-clean transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, such as via funding reduced transit fares, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S. Support funding for zero-emission alternative fuel initiatives that enhance mobility and accessibility while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric power storage capacity, electrical grid reliability, hydrogen hubs, and incentives for electric bike and vehicle purchases.
- 5S. Explore replacement funding mechanisms for transportation investments, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, full conversion to a vehicle registration fee, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.
- 6S. Support the promotion of telecommuting to reduce vehicle miles traveled via broadband investments in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, support the inclusion of local government representation in the administration of broadband infrastructure funding, and support new server farms in rural areas.

- 7S. Support the use of State rail funding to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 8S. Support efforts to reauthorize Public Private Partnership authority, public tolling authority, and design-build authority, expand mode eligibility, and allow for regional control of such projects
- 9S. Support legislation that increases roadway safety by implementing Vision Zero strategies and improving driver safety training.
- 10S. Support ~~legislation to devote more~~sustainable funding ~~to for~~ the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- 11S. Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 12S. Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) to update Transportation Development Act (TDA) law.
- 13S. Support MST efforts to seek funding to implement the infrastructure needed to meet the deadlines of the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation transition to a 100 percent zero-emission bus fleet by 2040.
- 14S. Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, ~~alternative clean~~ commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 15S. Modernize the Brown Act to enhance transparency and wider public access to allow the use of remote access to public meetings without requiring noticing of all remote Board or committee member locations, provided the public can participate via remote access software or in-person.
- 16S. Support member agencies' requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.

2023 Legislative Program

Federal Priorities

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
- ~~1. Support an adequate level of funding for the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) District with appropriations sufficient to ensure immediate access to funding.~~
 - ~~2. Increase and index the gas tax to inflation.~~
 - ~~3. Explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as a vehicle registration fee, pay by the mile user fee, public private partnerships, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.~~
 - ~~4. Expand access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans.~~
 - ~~5. Remove procedural obstacles that impede expenditure of authorized federal funding, including cash flow options for small and rural grantees.~~
 - 6.2. Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation priorities.
 - 7.3. Coordinate with regional military installations ~~in Monterey County~~ to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to operations at those installations.
 - 8.4. Support MST applications for federal funding for the SURF! Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor and for hydrogen fueling facilities.
 - 9.5. Support applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Discretionary Grant and climate resiliency/adaptation grant programs for projects on the California Central Coast.
- 2F.** Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.

- 3F.** Advocate for the Federal Communications Commission to regulate broadband/internet access as a utility to enable the increase of broadband infrastructure capacity to help bridge the digital divide and to encourage telecommuting.
- 4F.** Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing integrated passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 4F.5F.** Support the use of Federal rail funding to implement new passenger rail service on the Coast Route.
- 5F.6F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 6F.7F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.

DRAFT

2023 Legislative Program

State Priorities

- 1S.** Preserve funding for all modes of transportation projects, maximize formula funding to regions, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting for infrastructure needs. Advocate for proportionality on the application of vehicle miles traveled metrics in comparison to larger metro areas in the state, particularly for completing multi-modal corridors or highway projects in less densely populated or disadvantaged areas of the county, to increase safety for commuters, enhance routes needed for evacuation from climate events, goods movement, and tourism travel.
- 2S.** Leverage Measure X funds and partner with state agencies to pursue competitive grant or bond funding for highway safety, traffic congestion relief, trade corridors, passenger rail, public transportation, infrastructure resiliency, and bicycle and pedestrian routes for Monterey County projects.
- 3S.** Promote jobs-housing balance and clean transportation modes as ways to reduce vehicles miles traveled, such as via funding reduced transit fares, while maintaining statewide equity between urban and rural areas.
- 4S.** Support funding for zero-emission fuel initiatives that enhance mobility and accessibility while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric power storage capacity, electrical grid reliability, hydrogen hubs, and incentives for electric bike and vehicle purchases.
- 5S.** Explore replacement funding mechanisms for transportation investments, such as a pay-by-the-mile user fee, public private partnerships, full conversion to a vehicle registration fee, or wholesale energy taxes, that are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.
- 6S.** Support the promotion of telecommuting to reduce vehicle miles traveled via broadband investments in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, support the inclusion of local government representation in the administration of broadband infrastructure funding, and support new server farms in rural areas.

- 7S.** Support the use of State rail funding to implement new state-supported passenger rail service on the Coast Route to help the State meet transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 8S.** Support efforts to reauthorize Public Private Partnership authority, public tolling authority, and design-build authority, expand mode eligibility, and allow for regional control of such projects
- 9S.** Support legislation that increases roadway safety by implementing Vision Zero strategies and improving driver safety training.
- 10S.** Support sustainable funding for the oversubscribed Active Transportation Program.
- 11S.** Support streamlining project delivery, including simplifying grant program applications, raising encroachment permit thresholds, and accelerating project permit approvals.
- 12S.** Coordinate with the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) to update Transportation Development Act (TDA) law.
- 13S.** Support MST efforts to seek funding to implement the infrastructure needed to meet the deadlines of the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation transition to a 100 percent zero-emission bus fleet by 2040.
- 14S.** Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development (such as via redevelopment or opportunity zones), complete streets, clean commutes, multi-modal transportation, bikes on board trains and buses, and active transportation projects.
- 15S.** Modernize the Brown Act to enhance transparency and wider public access to allow the use of remote access to public meetings without requiring noticing of all remote Board or committee member locations, provided the public can participate via remote access software or in-person.
- 16S.** Support member agencies' requests for state funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



2023 Legislative Program

Federal Priorities

- 1F.** Support stabilizing and increasing transportation infrastructure funding sources to avoid the bankruptcy of the federal highway and transit trust funds:
 1. Support an adequate level of funding for the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) District with appropriations sufficient to ensure immediate access to funding.
 2. Support congressionally directed federal funding for Agency transportation priorities.
 3. Coordinate with regional military installations to seek funding for transportation projects with a nexus to operations at those installations.
 4. Support MST applications for federal funding for the SURF! Bus Line in the Monterey Branch Line corridor and for hydrogen fueling facilities.
 5. Support applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Discretionary Grant and climate resiliency/adaptation grant programs for projects on the California Central Coast.
- 2F.** Allow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to substitute for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and expand the definition of Categorical Exclusions, while retaining environmental protections.
- 3F.** Advocate for the Federal Communications Commission to regulate broadband/internet access as a utility to enable the increase of broadband infrastructure capacity to help bridge the digital divide and to encourage telecommuting.
- 4F.** Support streamlining of federal rail funding and removal of funding barriers between commuter and intercity rail programs, with the goal of increasing integrated passenger rail service for the traveling public.
- 5F.** Support the use of Federal rail funding to implement new passenger rail service on the Coast Route.

- 6F.** Support an adequate level of funding for Amtrak and support a fair share allocation to California for capital improvements and vehicle acquisition.
- 7F.** Support member agencies' requests for federal funding of regionally significant transportation projects and support partner agency legislative efforts as they interface with regional transportation priorities when they are consistent with Transportation Agency for Monterey County priorities.



Memorandum

To: Executive Committee
From: Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator
Meeting Date: January 11, 2023
Subject: Transportation Excellence Awards

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE report and **SELECT** nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards for 2022.

SUMMARY:

The Transportation Agency received two nominations for the Transportation Excellence Awards by the deadline of Friday, December 2, 2022. The awards ceremony to recognize the honorees will be held during the January 25, 2023 Board meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

The annual awards program gives the Transportation Agency the opportunity to show its appreciation to the local community for its outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County.

Examples of past award winners include:

- Citizens who have made significant efforts to educate the public about transportation, such as the US 101 South of Salinas Safety Alliance or Jennifer Cline from the Monterey-Salinas Transit navigator program;
- Innovative projects that have improved the local transportation network, such as the West Broadway Urban Village Improvements in Seaside and the City of Monterey's Citywide Adaptive Traffic Signal System;
- Impressive state highway projects, such as the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge on Highway 1;
- Successful efforts to improve transit services, such as the "Ride the 40's on Us"; and,
- Transportation professionals who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system, such as Enrique Saavedra, Monterey County Public Works and Andrea Renny, City of Monterey.

This year, staff received two nominations for Transportation Excellence Awards, within the categories of: Transportation professionals who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system and Projects. A brief summary of each nomination is attached to this staff report for the committee's review.

Staff will present the nominations and will ask that the Committee approve the honoree nominations submitted to be awarded Transportation Excellence Awards.

ATTACHMENTS:

▫ Summary of TAMC 2022 Excellence Awards Nomination

2022 Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations

Individual Nominee Award

Transportation professionals who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system.

Nominee: Andrew Easterling Traffic Engineer, City of Salinas

Nominator: Ariana Green. Principal Planner, TAMC

Description:

Andrew Easterling is the Traffic Engineer for the City of Salinas and is being recognized for his development and implementation of the Vision Zero Integrated into Maintenance (VZIM) program and dedication to safe routes to schools planning and projects. Andrew worked closely with safe routes to school program partners to develop the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan from 2019 - 2022 and through the Vision Zero Integrated into Maintenance program has already been able to start to implement projects that make it safer for children and people of all ages to get around Salinas.

“Vision Zero” is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. It is a movement that began in Europe and spread to American cities, rooted in the philosophy that no loss of life due to road crashes is acceptable or inevitable and therefore sets the goal of reducing fatalities and severe injuries to zero.

The City of Salinas adopted a Vision Zero Policy on February 11, 2020 and directed staff to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan. The Plan developed and implemented by Andrew Easterling identifies where fatal and severed injury collisions are occurring within the city, and with GIS technology helps reveal emphasis areas where a higher frequency of collisions can be evaluated to achieve the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries most effectively.

The development and adoption of the Vision Zero Action Plan keeps the City of Salinas eligible and competitive in future grant cycles for the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program grant program, which has provided millions of federal dollars towards local safety improvement projects.

Safe Routes to School is a regional Measure X funded program designed to improve safety and health of children by funding projects and programs (such as sidewalks, bikeways and educational programs) that promote safe walking, bicycling or scooting to school. The adopted Salinas Safe Routes to School Program provides safety improvement recommendations and educational programming for 45 schools throughout Salinas.

Project

Nominee: Point Pinos Trail Project

Nominator: Joyce Halabi, Deputy Public Works Director, City of Pacific Grove

Description:

The City of Pacific Grove's Point Pinos Coastal Trail Project, completed in 2022 addressed a 0.8 mile stretch of coastline in PG known as Point Pinos, on Ocean View Boulevard . Prior to this project, Point Pinos lacked formalized, safe, and accessible coastal amenities for its various users-including trails, parking, and coastal access points. This stretch from Acropolis Avenue to Lighthouse Avenue also represented the only gap of the California Coastal Trail between the City of Monterey and the three of four miles of PG Coastline.

The project's scope of work included: construction of a formal, ADA compliant, 5-foot-wide trail, boardwalk, native plant restoration, formalized coastal parking, installation of 10 beach access points, and various stormwater improvements.

The Point Pinos Trail project significantly improved safety, access parking, and stormwater capture. Today, the new trail, boardwalk, and parking area serves thousands of visitors and residents that come to the City's beloved coastline. Now all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists,) can more safely enjoy this segment of the Coastal Trail and its expansive ocean views, beaches, sand dunes, rock formations, tide pools, world-class birdwatching, and so much more!