

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

May 28, 2014 Meeting

HOW ABOUT A ROUNDABOUT? TAMC APPROVES FUNDING FOR ROUNDABOUT FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Tired of waiting at your local traffic light? Maybe a roundabout is for you. On Wednesday, May 28, the Transportation Agency approved \$300,000 to hire a consultant to study the potential for constructing roundabouts at more than 20 key intersections across Monterey County. Compared to the traditional traffic light, roundabouts can significantly reduce congestion, pollution from idling cars, and improve safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Some of the intersections to be studied are:

- San Miguel Canyon Road at Castroville Boulevard in North Monterey County
- Broadway Street / San Antonio Drive at US 101 ramps in King City
- Beach Road at Reservation Road in Marina
- Del Monte Avenue Signals in Downtown Monterey
- Pico Avenue / Melrose Street / Short Street at 17-Mile Drive in Pacific Grove
- West Alisal Street at Capitol Street in Salinas
- Broadway Avenue at Del Monte Boulevard in Seaside
- Pinnacles Parkway at Metz Street in Soledad

REPLACING THE GAS TAX: HOW WOULD A VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED TAX WORK?

Could drivers in California eventually be taxed for each mile they drive instead of each gallon of gas the pump? The possibility of replacing the existing gas tax with a vehicle miles traveled tax, or VMT, was a subject of a presentation at the May TAMC Board meeting. While the cost of building and maintaining our roads and highways has steadily increased over the years, the main funding source for maintaining roadways, the gas tax, has remained locked at 18 cents a gallon since 1994. The stagnant gas tax is even more troubling given the emergence of more fuel efficient vehicles that use less gas and therefore don't end up paying for their full impact on the roadways. Facing serious funding shortages for needed highway maintenance and improvements, many states nationally and in the West are exploring ways to phase out the gas tax and replace it with a more accurate and reliable revenue source like the VMT. Oregon is currently operating a pilot VMT program and while such a program is not currently planned for California, officials are looking closely to see how the program works and whether a VMT program could be a viable solution for our roadway needs.

For more information about Oregon's program, go to <http://www.king5.com/home/Will-drivers-someday-pay-for-every-mile-they-drive-190257121.html>.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND A FOND FAREWELL TO SENIOR
TRANSPORTATION PLANNER ANDY COOK**

Senior Transportation Planner Andy Cook has been selected by the employees of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County as the Employee of the Quarter for January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014. The recognition comes with some sadness as Andy has accepted a job with the Caltrans Division of Rail, and will be moving to Sacramento. The Agency employees recognize Andy for his eleven years of professionalism, diligence, knowledge and most notably for his work on the Regional Transportation Plan, TAMC Annual Reports, and working on bike and transit planning activities.