

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)
Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee (X-TOC)
FINAL minutes of October 20, 2020 Meeting
Held via a Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic

Voting Members	JAN 2019	APR 2019	JUL 2019	OCT 2019	FEB 2020	MAY 2020	JUL 2020	OCT 2020
Kevin Dayton Salinas Valley Taxpayers Association <i>(Rick Giffin)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Jesus Valenzuela Transit Users <i>(Andrea Manzo)</i>	A	A	A	A	P	A	P	E
Janet Brennan League of Women Voters <i>(Howard Fosler)</i>	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
Tom Rowley Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association <i>(Rick Heuer)</i>	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Kalah Bumba Senior or disabled services agency <i>(Teresa Sullivan)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Victoria Beach Bicycling Advocate <i>(Claire Rygg)</i>	P	E	E	P	A	P	P	-
Rod Smalley Labor Organization <i>(Glen Schaller)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Cliff Fasnacht Central Coast Builders Association <i>(Kristine O'Dell)</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	-
John Haupt Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce <i>(John Bailey)</i>	P	P	E	A	A	P	P	E

Dan Limesand Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce <i>(vacant)</i>	P -	P -	E -	P V	P V	P V	P V	P -
Scott Waltz Habitat Preservation <i>(Rachel Saunders, Big Sur Land Trust)</i>	E E	P P	A E	A P	P -	P -	P -	P -

Barbara Meister Hospitality <i>(Sam Teel)</i>	P -	P -	P -	E -	P P	P -	P -	P -
Norm Groot Agriculture <i>(Paul Arnaudo)</i>	P -	E -	P -	P -	P -	P -	P -	P P
Joshua Jorn Education <i>(Jarrett Garife, Patrick Deberdt)</i>	P - P	A P -	A - P	A P	A -	A -	A P	
Paula Getzelman, Chair South County <i>(Carol Kenyon)</i>	P P	P P	P -	P P	P -	P -	P -	P P
Chris Barrera Latino Organization <i>(vacant)</i>	P -	E -	E P	A P	P -	P P	P V	P -
Ron Rader North County <i>(Scott Freeman)</i>	P -	E -	P -	P -	P -	A -	A -	- -
Daniel Hernandez Pedestrian <i>(Laurie Eavey)</i>	- -	P -	A -	P -	P -	P -	P -	P -
Alexis Garcia-Arrazola Youth/College <i>(Natalie Olivas)</i>	A -	P -	P -	P V	P V	P V	P V	- P
Sean Hebard Construction <i>(Keith Severson)</i>	P P	P P	E P	P P	P P	P P	P P	P -
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF								
Debbie Hale Executive Director	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P
Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P
Kay Reimann, Legal Counsel	E	P	P	E	P	E	E	E
Rich Deal, Principal Transportation Engineer	E	E	E	E	P	E	E	P
Stefania Castillo, Transportation Planner	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	P
Rita Goel, Deputy for Admin & Finance	E	P	E	E	E	E	E	E
Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Laurie Williams, Transportation Engineer	P	E	P	E	E	P	E	P
Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant	E	E	E	P	P	P	P	P
Ariana Green, Senior Transportation Planner	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	-
Tracy Burke, Go831 Program Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
(alternate) P = present E = excused absence A = unnoticed absence - = alternate absent V = vacant position								
OTHERS PRESENT								

1. WELCOME

Barbara Meister, Committee 1st Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. 1st Vice Chair Meister asked Maria Montiel, TAMC’s Administrative Assistant, to take the roll.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Groot/ Rowley/ unanimously

3.1 Approved draft minutes of the July 21, 2020 and May 5, 2020 committee meeting.

3.2 Received 2021 schedule of the eXcellent Transportation Oversight Committee meetings.

4. IMJIN PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation on the Measure X-funded Imjin Parkway Improvement Project from the City of Marina.

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator, introduced Brian McMinn, Public Works Director, City of Marina and Edrie Delos Santos, Consultant Engineer, to do a presentation on the city's Measure X-funded Imjin Parkway Improvement Project.

Imjin Parkway is a major roadway that provides access to and from SR 1 and serves both local and regional traffic. As a regional commuter route, it connects the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley, providing an alternative to Highway 68 and direct access between Salinas and Cal State Monterey Bay. Due to its importance in moving regional traffic, this project was included in the Measure X Transportation Safety and Improvement Program.

The Imjin Parkway Improvement Project would improve traffic operations and pedestrian and bicycle access and safety. In addition, Imjin Parkway accommodates regional traffic that uses Imjin Parkway as an alternative "bypass" facility when the other regional route State Route 68 is impacted.

Mr. McMinn noted that the City is currently finalizing its right-of-way acquisition, permits and bid documents. He also discussed the project's environmental mitigation and the impacts that Covid-19 had on the project process. Mr. Delos Santos described improvements that will be made with the Measure X-funded Imjin Parkway Improvement Project which include:

- Widen the two-lane section of Imjin to four lanes
- Install four roundabouts
- Build a mixed-use path
- Stripe on-street buffered bike lanes
- Enhance storm water treatment areas
- Build retaining and sound walls
- Add landscaping and an irrigation system

Committee member Janet Brennan asked what the estimated emissions reduction were related to greenhouse gas for the project. She said she was surprised that it was not included in the report because greenhouse gas reductions are substantial with roundabouts. She suggested that the presenter should consider adding the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in future presentations.

Committee member Norm Groot asked questions about lane sizing and whether there was capacity to include wider lanes, particularly for trucking traffic that use this corridor. Mr. Delos Santos replied that the roundabout lanes are designed to widen to allow for safer turning radius for larger vehicles. In response to Mr. Groot's question inquiring if "calming" were going to be implemented to address speeding, Public Works Director Brian McMinn described some of the methods that would be implemented to encourage slower speed.

Executive Director Debbie Hale noted that the EIR is completed and Transportation Agency staff Theresa Wright will be coordinating with the City of Marina on public outreach to provide traveler's information about the project as construction phasing happens.

Committee member Tom Rowley expressed that it is encouraging to see the project moving forward. He noted that he has observed the traffic and said there are always a few "speed burners" that try to pass everybody where it currently narrows from two lanes to one lane. He questioned whether there was a demand for bike lanes on the project and expressed that he hoped to see more bikers on the route in the future and that this would not be wasted money. Mr. Rowley concluded that this was a critical project, and he was pleased to see it come to fruition. He also stressed that the alternate bypass to Highway 68 was still desperately needed.

Other committee member asked qualifying questions about the planning process, project design and funding, including the additional funding for the art that will be included in the center of the roundabouts. Norm Groot expressed his support for the art and noted it might calm the traffic.

5. **FORT ORD REGIONAL TRAIL AND GREENWAY PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Fort Ord Regional Trail Greenway (FORTAG) Project.

Stefania Castillo, Transportation Planner, reported that the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project has reached several milestones including certification of the final environmental document, approval of a Master Agreement among the underlying jurisdictions, and completion of the preliminary engineering design. She noted that the Transportation Agency secured a \$10.3 million state Active Transportation Program grant to fund the construction of the first segment of the trail, from Safeway at Canyon Del Rey Boulevard to Del Rey Woods School in Seaside.

The vision for the Fort Ord Regional Trail & Greenway (FORTAG) is to create a multimodal route designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities that connects communities in and around the former Fort Ord to each other and to education, employment, community and recreation centers.

The Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed 28-mile paved trail was certified by the Transportation Agency Board on March 25, 2020. A Master Agreement was approved by the Transportation Agency and the underlying jurisdictions in June 2020. She noted that on August 2020, the California Transportation Commission approved the allocation of \$1.198 million in Senate Bill 1 Active Transportation Program funds for right-of-way acquisition for Phase 1 of the SR 218 Canyon Del Rey Segment of the FORTAG.

The Commission also approved the allocation of \$600,000 in Senate Bill 1 local Partnership Program funds for the preparation of final design plans, specifications and estimates for construction of this first trail segment.

In conclusion Ms. Castillo reported that a multi-agency review panel recommends that the TAMC Board select GHD, Inc. to perform the engineering and right-of-way work. Once the consultant team is brought on board, public workshops will be scheduled in coordination with Caltrans, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and the cities of Del Rey Oaks and Seaside to gather input on how the trail will ultimately look and feel. The Final design and right-of-way certification are anticipated to take approximately two years to complete, starting in Fall 2020 and scheduled for completion by June 30, 2022. Construction is scheduled to start thereafter in 2022. Other segments of the FORTAG will proceed to design and construction as matching funds are obtained.

In response to a question about whether the North Fremont Street bike lane would connect to the FORTAG project, Ms. Castillo replied that Transportation Agency staff was working with the City of Marina to make the connection to the project.

Committee member Tom Rowley expressed that nearby projects are being put on hold due to the City of Monterey's budget crunch, which includes the missing gap on the North Fremont Street bike lane between Casanova and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard.

Committee member Scott Waltz noted that Transportation Agency staff has been doing a good job and moving the project forward successfully.

6. **MEASURE X REGIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Measure X Regional Highway Safety Projects.

Rich Deal, Principal Engineer, TAMC, reported on the progress of Measure X regional highway projects including: SR 68 Scenic Corridor Improvements; SR 156 /Castroville Blvd. Interchange; US 101 South of Salinas Improvements, and the SURF! Highway 1 Busway.

SR 68 Scenic Corridor Safety and Operations Improvements

This project is currently in the preliminary engineering and environmental phase. Caltrans is the lead agency and is preparing 35% design for Alternative 1, which proposes to replace the nine existing traffic signals with roundabouts. Alternative 2, which proposes to widen each intersection to four lanes and upgrade the existing traffic signals. The Transportation Agency is providing project management and roundabout design support. Caltrans is also preparing the technical studies and environmental impact report. The critical path for this phase is the archaeological assessment that leads to a final environmental impact report in September 2023. The next phase of the project is final engineering design that will follow certification of the environmental impact report by the California Transportation Commission.

Committee member Dan Limesand asked Mr. Deal to speak about archeological assessment and its risks to the project that could alter the project in any way. He also asked about the construction sequence for building the roundabouts. Rich Deal explained the importance of the assessment and its impacts. He also replied that building multiple roundabouts at one time is the same challenge to plan construction for one roundabout at a time. So, the preference would be to build 3-4 roundabouts at one time, beginning with the roundabouts on the east end of Highway 68.

State Route 156 / Castroville Blvd Interchange

The SR 156 / Castroville Blvd interchange is on the first stage of the SR 156 West Corridor Project between Highway 1 and US 101. The overall project has completed the environmental phase. The SR 156 / Castroville Blvd Interchange is currently in the design and right-of-way phase. Caltrans is leading the design with the Transportation Agency providing project management and roundabout design support. Caltrans has completed 65% plans and is moving toward 90% plans on stage 1. The State Legislature recently passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 1231, authorizing the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a permit for the take of the Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander habitat resulting from impacts attributable to the construction along the State Route 156 corridor through Moro Cojo Slough in the County of Monterey for the purpose of enhancing safety and access, if certain conditions are satisfied. The project is expected to be ready to list for construction bids in Summer 2022.

Committee member Barbara Meister inquired how Oak Hills residents would enter and exit their home with the proposed project. Mr. Deal demonstrated on the interchange simulation map. Deputy Executive Director Todd Muck replied that Oak Hills and Prunedale residents will have access to a frontage road from either end.

Member Smalley asked about the third roundabout near the high school. Mr. Deal explained the importance to the roundabout for bike and pedestrian safety and access for Monte Del Lago and the future CHISPA housing planned for the area.

US 101 South of Salinas Improvements

The US 101 South of Salinas Improvement project has a previously completed corridor study and project study report; however, the range of possible alternatives is so large that the environmental work would be cost and time prohibitive. For this reason, the Transportation Agency is undertaking a study with extensive outreach to narrow down the range of reasonable alternatives, as a bridge to the environmental phase. The completed study alternatives will reflect the results of the robust outreach campaign, leading to an efficient environmental review process and a more focused preliminary engineering effort. While some study elements have been delayed due to COVID19 impacts, the initial online outreach process proved successful. The study is moving toward identifying various options for reducing fatal and injury crashes occurring in at-grade highway intersections and improving safety along the US 101 corridor from Abbott Street in Salinas to Main Street in Chualar.

Committee member Rod Smalley asked who made the drone footage. Deputy Director Todd Muck replied that the drone was to collect traffic data, not survey work.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

Theresa Wright Community Outreach Coordinator announced that a meeting will be held on November 10, 2020 at 2 p.m. for the election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair and Audit Subcommittee. She reminded the committee that the deadline for jurisdictions to submit their Measure X Annual Compliance Reports was December 31, 2020; and that the Measure X Audit Subcommittee would begin review the reports for their annual audit in January 2021.

She also announced the Transportation Agency's has partnered with Blue Zones and the City of Salinas to promote the October Go831 Smart Commute Challenge. She noted that the Transportation Agency's Go831 program encourages activities that reduce congestion in Monterey County. She noted that it has been hard for a lot of businesses during COVID-19.

8. ADJOURMENT

Vice Chair Meister adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.