

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE

JOINT POWERS AGENCY

FINAL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2023 TAMC BOARD MEETING

1441 Schilling Place, Salinas CA 93901, Cinnamon Conference Room

Alternate location: 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, 2nd Floor, Supervisor Alejo's Office

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Gonzales	Supervisor District 1 Office	Lisa Rheinheimer	MST
Priscilla Barba	Supervisor District 3 Office	Octavio Hurtado	King City
Dwight Stump	Corral de Tierra resident		

1. QUORUM CHECK – CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre 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. Vice Chair Lopez led the pledge of allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dwight Stump expressed concerns with installing nine roundabouts on eight miles on Highway 68, and how it could impact the community. A copy of his letter was handed out to the Board.

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 October 25, 2023.
- 3.1.2** Accepted the list of checks written for the month of October 2023 and credit card statements for the month of September 2023.
- 3.1.3** Received report on conferences or trainings attended by agency staff.
- 3.1.4** Approved calendar year 2024 schedule of meetings for the Agency Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- 3.1.5** Appointed Board Chair LeBarre and Past Chair Adams as Nominating Committee to meet and return to Board of Directors on January 24, 2024, 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 22, 2025 Board meeting.

3.1.6 Regarding Safe Streets Together Monterey County Cooperative Agreement:

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director to execute a cooperative agreement with Blue Zones Project Monterey County, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, in an amount not-to-exceed \$19,635, to develop the "Safe Streets Together Monterey County" public awareness campaign through June 30, 2024;
2. Accepted \$19,635 in funding from Blue Zones Project Monterey County for this project; and
3. Authorized the Executive Director to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the agreement, 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.

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, TRANSIT and SOCIAL SERVICES**3.2.1** No items this month.***PLANNING*****3.3.1** Regarding North Monterey County Safe Routes to Schools Plan Agreement:

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to execute separate agreements with Ecology Action and Monterey County Health Department, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, for amounts not to exceed \$528,732 and \$119,715 respectively, to provide planning and community engagement services for the period ending June 30, 2026;
2. Approved the use of Caltrans Sustainable Communities grant and Measure X Safe Routes to School funds budgeted to this purpose; and
3. Authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the agreement, including approval of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved agreement term or amount.

PROJECT DELIVERY and PROGRAMMING**3.4.1** Regarding Grant Preparation Assistance:

1. Approved issuing a Request for Qualifications for consultant grant preparation assistance, subject to Agency counsel review;
2. Authorized staff to publish the Request for Qualifications, and return to the Board of Directors with a recommendation for approval of a consultant; and
3. Approved the use of Measure X regional project funds for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

3.4.2 Regarding the Alisal Safe Routes to School Contract:

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to execute an agreement with Monterey County Health Department, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, in an amount not to exceed \$25,433.32 to provide safety education services for the period ending June 30, 2026;
2. Approved the use of Active Transportation Program grant funds budgeted to this project; and
3. Authorized the Executive Director, or their designee, to take such other further actions as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the agreement, including approval of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved agreement term or amount.

3.4.3 Approved Resolution 2023-16 for the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, which:

- Finds that the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is consistent with State Improvement Program Guidelines adopted by the CTC in August 2023, the RTIP does not conflict with other RTIPs or with the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), and the RTIP is consistent with the Congestion Management Program and the Regional Transportation Plan;
- Adopts the Monterey County 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program;
- Directs TAMC staff to submit the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to the CTC by December 15, 2023;
- Directs TAMC staff to submit the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments to be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program; and
- Amends the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program into the Congestion Management Program Capital Improvement Program.

3.4.4 Regarding the Safe Routes to School Education Contract:

1. Approved and authorized the Executive Director to execute contract amendment #4 with Ecology Action, subject to approval by Agency Counsel, extending the term of the Agreement from December 31, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and adding an additional \$150,000 for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,070,000;
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 approval of future modifications or amendments that do not significantly alter the scope of work, or change the approved contract term or amount.

RAIL PROGRAM

- 3.5.1** Approved funding for a Salinas Building Permit for the Monterey County Rail Extension Project Package 2, Salinas Layover Facility.
- 3.5.2** Regarding the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station Request for Proposals
1. Approved the Scope of Work for the Request for Proposals for a consultant to perform environmental review for the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Station;
 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 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds, contingent on California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval at their December 6-7, 2023 meeting allocating funds to this project.

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 November 1, 2023
 - Rail Policy Committee – draft minutes of November 6, 2023
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee – draft minutes of November 1, 2023
 - Technical Advisory Committee – draft minutes of November 2, 2023
 - Excellent Transportation Oversight Committee – No Meeting
- 3.7.2** Received Transportation Agency for Monterey County correspondence for November 2023.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors presented the Transportation Agency Employees of the Quarter to the Participatory Budgeting team of Aaron Hernandez, Ariadne Sambrano, Ariana Green, and Janneke Strause.

The Agency employees recognized the “Participatory Budgeting Team” for their professionalism, positive attitude, and their hard work developing the Salinas Valley Safe Routes to School Plan for 22 schools in the Cities of Greenfield, Soledad, Gonzales, and King City. The team worked hard gathering input from parents, teachers, students, and school administrators. The community recommended projects to make biking and walking to school safer and more comfortable.

5. **STATE TRANSIT AND ZERO EMISSION FUNDING PROJECT CANDIDATES**

TAMC Board of Directors took the following action on the State Transit and Zero Emission Funding Project Candidates:

M/S/C Potter/Alejo
Noes Cabrera and Carbone

1. Approved allocating a 50/50 split of Senate Bill 125 transit and zero emission funding between bus and rail transit projects;
2. Directed staff to evaluate and recommend potential changes to SB 125 programming annually when updating the Integrated Funding Strategy, or more frequently if grant funding opportunities arise; and
3. Approved increasing the Measure X funding share to the SURF! Busway project by a total of \$9.2 million, contingent upon a 50/50 split of SB 125 funds between the Transportation Agency and the Monterey-Salinas Transit District.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that on July 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 125 into law, which included new formula funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and created a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP). TAMC is slated to receive \$44.5 million over two years in TIRCP formula funds and \$8 million over four years for the ZETCP.

The legislative intent of the funding covers a range of goals, including: funding high-priority bus and rail transit capital projects, providing transit operations bridge funding for transit operators to address operational costs until long-term transit sustainability solutions are identified, assisting transit operators in preventing service cuts and increasing ridership, prioritizing the availability of transit for riders who are transit dependent, and prioritizing transit agencies representing a significant percentage of the region’s ridership.

As approved by the TAMC Executive Committee on November 1, and supported by the Transportation Agency’s Rail Policy Committee on November 6, the proposed funding distribution would take 1% off

the top for administration expenses and allocate 50% of the remaining funds to MST bus projects and 50% to TAMC rail projects, with additional Measure X funding covering the current estimate for SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project construction costs. This Measure X augmentation effectively increases MST's funding allocation to 67% of their funding request; and provides the opportunity to leverage the Measure X and SB 125 funds to fund important regional rail projects. The regional rail projects are the Pajaro/Watsonville multimodal station; the Monterey County Rail Extension , including Positive Train Control; and the King City multimodal station.

The preliminary project list with narrative explanations and a short-range transit plan is due to the California State Transportation Agency by December 31, 2023.

Board Member Cabrera commented that funding MST's current service would be better than putting funds into future rail projects, noting that the MST operations in South County is important.

Board Member Alejo noted that the TAMC Rail Policy Committee is evidence of the Agency's long-term commitment to rail projects. He stated that all the proposed train stations are in underserved communities that would support ridership growth on MST lines serving those stations as well as on the proposed High Speed Rail service, whose closest connection for Monterey County is at the Gilroy station. He also noted that the MST letter on the dais was not approved by the full MST Board.

Board Member Oglesby noted that the rail stations are in the State Rail Plan and would serve to provide residents new access to rail and airports in San Jose, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Diego. He stated that rail is part of closing the gap for underserved communities and that these are all long-term projects that have been in the works for decades. He also noted that TAMC is not telling MST how to spend its portion of the SB 125 funding, that the MST Board should make that decision.

Carl Sedoryk, MST, responded that the MST letter signed by the Chair was based on the discussion by the Board. He noted that MST has provided letters of support for all of TAMC's rail funding applications. He expressed concern that if TAMC did not follow the legislative intent of funding transit operations, the funding might not be appropriated by the legislature.

Board Member Potter stated that TAMC took the lead in negotiating with Union Pacific for the acquisition of the Monterey Branch line, envisioning a return of the "Del Monte Express" intercity train. He stated that the Agency, facing financial constraints, later pivoted to focus on investing in the corridor to Salinas on the mainline tracks, and that now MST is working on implementing the SURF! bus project on TAMC's rail corridor. He noted the importance of investing in the rail program for long-term projects.

Board Member Carbone stated the MST operations deficit should be the top priority.

Board Member Lopez noted this funding was a rare opportunity to fund transformative investments that would bring long-term change for the region's low-income communities and communities of color. He notes the compromise solution using Measure X funds is fair and flexible.

Public comment:

Carl Sedoryk read a letter from MST Board Chair Anna Velasquez, expressing strong concerns about the proposed funding allocation, asserting that the funding should only go to MST.

6. REPORTS FROM TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

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

- Caltrans is pleased to release the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application Guide and Call for Applications. A total of \$53.4 million is available for transportation planning projects statewide. The grant applications are due January 18, 2024, by 5 p.m. Caltrans will be conducting virtual grant application workshops. Contact the appropriate Caltrans district staff if there are questions about developing competitive grant applications.

Monterey Regional Airport District – Carl Miller announced the following:

- The airport has started construction on their fire station.

Monterey Salinas Transit District – Carl Sedoryk announced the following:

- On December 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., MST will be hosting a meeting regarding the SURF! project beautification and plants. He noted that this project is now fully funded.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District – No report.

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

No report this month.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Todd Muck announced the following:

- Congratulated Janneke Strause for her promotion to Associate Transportation Planner.
- On November 15, staff met with Assembly member Rivas to discuss our region's transportation priorities.
- On December 2, TAMC held a Traffic Garden grand opening event in King City.
- On December 6, TAMC and Caltrans held a Highway 68 meeting at the Monterey Conference Center.
- On December 8, TAMC will hold a ribbon-cutting at US 101 and Spence Road Auxiliary Lanes project to celebrate funding secured by Representative Panetta.
- Reminder that the TAMC office will be closed from December 25 through January 2.
- All January 2024 committee meetings will be held on the second week of January.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT on the Closed Session: none.

CLOSED SESSION:

The TAMC Board of Directors held a Closed Session regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Positions: Executive Director & Agency Council.

RECONVENED in open session: No reportable action was taken.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS

None this month.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.