



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

[www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**March 22, 2023**

### **Salinas Valley Safe Routes to School Plan and Participatory Budgeting Presentation**

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors received a presentation on the Salinas Valley Safe Routes to School Plan and the participatory budgeting process. The Plan was funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant (\$664,127) and Measure X Safe Routes to School funds (\$126,501).

The Salinas Valley Safe Routes to School Plan, developed by the Transportation Agency, Monterey County Health Department, Ecology Action, and the cities, will identify barriers to safe access to all K-12 public schools in South County cities and recommend infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements. An important component of the Plan is a participatory budgeting process that is designed to fast-track funding and implementation of safe routes to school projects that are meaningful to community members.

The first participatory budgeting planning process was in the City of Greenfield. The Greenfield Safe Routes to School Steering Committee, made up of residents, students, and community advocates, developed a list of projects for the community to vote on. The ballot included 21 street safety projects, three projects for each public school in the city. After reviewing the election results, the Greenfield Safe Routes to School Steering Committee recommended four projects for near-term implementation that include filling sidewalk gaps, crosswalks, curb ramps, high visibility signage, and flashing stop signs, to the Greenfield City Council, which voted to approve funding the recommended projects during their March 14, 2023, council meeting. The Participatory Budgeting process in the cities of Gonzales, Soledad, and King City will occur this year.

[Greenfield PB Election Results](#)

## **Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Project**

After receiving a presentation on the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Project, TAMC's Board of Directors authorized the Transportation Agency's Executive Director to pursue member designated funding for planning and environmental studies for the project.

The Highway 1 corridor through Elkhorn Slough presents significant challenges to the future of transportation in the Monterey Bay region under conditions of climate change and sea level rise. Submitting the Highway 1 Elkhorn Slough Resiliency Project as a candidate for state funding for planning activities will help prepare the project for future local, state, and federal grant opportunities.

The Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study, adopted by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) in 2020, concluded that as early as 2030, an eight-mile section of Highway 1 and five miles of railway in Elkhorn Slough, home to extraordinary biological diversity, could experience regular storm and tidal flooding.

[Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study](#)

[Elkhorn Slough sea level rise - virtual reality video](#)

## **2023 Programming Guidelines and Competitive Grants**

The TAMC Board of Directors approved the 2023 programming guidelines and competitive grants funds for the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP). The RSTP, now known as the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, is a federal program that provides states and local jurisdictions with funding for highway improvements, street rehabilitation, and transportation enhancements. The Transportation Agency receives an annual apportionment of Regional Surface Transportation Program funding passed through the State.

Because Monterey County did not have an urbanized area with a population of greater than 200,000 in the 1990 census, it qualified for the state exchange program, whereby Caltrans keeps the federal apportionments for a region and gives the regional agency an equivalent amount of state funds.

The Transportation Agency distributes Regional Surface Transportation Program funding in both fair-share, set aside, and competitive programs. Monterey County and the cities receive fair-share Regional Surface Transportation Program funds based on a formula of 50% population and 50% centerline miles. The total fair share allocation over the next three years is \$3.6 million. Ten percent (\$1.8 million) is set aside as an RSTP reserve to provide flexibility to meet needs as they arise over the three-year period of this funding cycle.

[2023 RSTP Guidelines & Grant Application](#)