



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

HIGHLIGHTS

October 28, 2026

TAMC Board Receives Update on the US 101 South of Salinas Corridor Project

Meg Henry, Caltrans District 5, Project Manager of the US 101 South of Salinas Corridor Project, presented an update to the Transportation Agency's Board of Directors on recent progress, coordination with partner agencies, and upcoming milestones related to environmental, design, and funding activities for two projects currently underway along the US 101 South of Salinas corridor.

Caltrans, in coordination with TAMC and regional partners, is advancing two complementary projects along US 101 South of Salinas that address near-term safety concerns and long-term corridor deficiencies.

South of Salinas Access Management Project (Short-Term Safety Improvements)

The South of Salinas Access Management Project is designed to address immediate and ongoing safety risks along a segment of US 101 between Salinas and Chualar where a safety study identified a concentration of conflicts at uncontrolled intersections. The project will prohibit left-turn and U-turn movements at eleven (11) uncontrolled intersections through the installation of median closures, significantly reducing the potential for high-severity collisions such as head-on and broadside crashes.

To preserve local connectivity and emergency response capability, two emergency access points will remain open. In addition, traffic rerouted to parallel roadways will be mitigated through the installation of all-way stop signs at four intersections along Old Stage Road. Targeted improvements will also be made at the southbound exit ramp at the existing Chualar interchange to enhance safety and traffic flow.

This project is fully funded by Caltrans and provides a cost-effective, near-term strategy to reduce crash risk while longer term corridor improvements advance.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

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Construction is anticipated to begin in November 2026 with the installation of temporary barriers. The full median closure will occur between December through January 2027 before the beginning of the agricultural harvest season. The completion of all construction work with the permanent barriers is expected to be done in Fall of 2027.

US 101 South of Salinas Corridor Improvement Project (Long-Term Improvements)

The US 101 South of Salinas Corridor Improvement Project is intended to address long-standing corridor challenges related to safety, freight movement, congestion, multimodal access, and equity.

This project has entered the environmental review phase for the full corridor. The project will construct a new, relocated interchange north of Chualar, including a grade-separated crossing over the Union Pacific Railroad and the addition of new frontage roads that incorporate bicycle facilities. These improvements are expected to significantly enhance operational efficiency on US 101 by reducing at-grade conflicts, separating local and regional traffic movements, and improving access management along the corridor.

In addition to freight and vehicle operations, the project emphasizes multimodal mobility, with new bicycle facilities that improve safety and connectivity for people traveling by bike and accessing transit. By improving access, circulation, and safety, the project is anticipated to enhance transit reliability and support increased transit ridership along this corridor.

Importantly, the Corridor Improvement Project directly addresses transportation impacts experienced by the small, rural, and disadvantaged community of Chualar. The new interchange and frontage roads are expected to reduce cut-through traffic, improve access to regional destinations, and mitigate safety and environmental impacts that disproportionately affect the community today.

Construction funding is anticipated through a Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) grant application for which Caltrans is the lead agency.

[Highway 101 South of Salinas](https://www.tamcmonterey.org/highway-101-south-of-salinas) (<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/highway-101-south-of-salinas>)

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TAMC Seeks Nominations for 25th Transportation Excellence Awards

The TAMC Board of Directors authorized the release of a call for nominations for the Transportation Agency 's 25th Annual Transportation Excellence Awards. The award honors individuals, businesses, groups, or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

Examples of potential awards include but are not limited to:

- Projects that exemplify TAMC's mission to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environmental quality, and economic activities in Monterey County.
- Innovative activities that promote safer or more efficient use of the local transportation network.
- Citizens or organizations that have made significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues.
- Successful efforts to improve transit services and encourage the use of commute options as alternatives to driving alone.
- Transportation employees who excel at their jobs and go the extra mile to improve our transportation system.

The nomination form is available on the Transportation Agency website. The form can be submitted online, mailed to Transportation Agency offices or emailed to Theresa Wright at theresa@tamcmonterey.org).

The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 11, 2026. The Transportation Agency Executive Committee will select the awards recipients at its January 13, 2027 meeting, and the awards ceremony will take place during the regular January 27, 2027, Transportation Agency Board meeting.

[Transportation Excellence Awards](https://www.tamcmonterey.org/transportation-excellence-awards) (<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/transportation-excellence-awards>)

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