

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

September 23, 2015

Shortfall in State Transportation Improvement Program Funds Affects Projects

Resulting from reduced gas tax revenues, the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) estimates include no new funding for the next five years. As a result, no new projects can be programmed and some existing projects will need to be delayed. STIP is the statewide five-year program which provides funding for state and local transportation projects. The funds for the program comes from state and federal gas tax revenue and are used for capital improvements, such as local road rehabilitation, traffic relief, intersection improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transit, passenger rail, and other projects that improve the region's mobility.

Though the Governor has called for an "Extraordinary Session on Transportation and Infrastructure" for the State Legislature to consider funding for transportation infrastructure, the Governor and Legislation have not been able to come to an agreement on how best to proceed.

TAMC Board "Brainstorms" to Identify Potential Expenditure Plan Projects

The Agency's Board of Directors held a brainstorming session during their meeting on Wednesday to identify projects that could be funded through a Transportation Expenditure Plan for a November 2016 sales tax measure. Board members, representing each city and supervisorial district readily identified local streets, highways or corridors that need road maintenance and pothole repairs, safety and traffic reductions, mobility services for seniors and youth, and walkability, bicycle safety and environmental improvements.

The "brainstorming session" reemphasized the need for Monterey County to become a "self-help" county and the importance of having a dedicated source of locally controlled dollars to address critical transportation needs to maintain roads and ensure safe, adequate streets, roads, bus systems, walkways, bike routes and transportation systems for today and in the future.

TAMC Selects Firm to Conduct 156 Level 2 Traffic & Revenue Study

The TAMC Board of Directors authorized TAMC's Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to conduct a detailed Level 2 Traffic & Revenue Study for State Route 156 West Corridor.

The Level 2 Traffic and Revenue Study will provide results about current and future traffic diversions, potential toll rates, toll discounts for local residents and businesses, and other questions and concerns brought up by the Board and the public, adopted by the Board of Directors as "Guiding Principles" for evaluating tolling. The information gained from the study will provide the public and elected officials information needed to evaluate the viability of tolling on SR 156. It will also provide the data and analysis needed for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report required to be completed before the Transportation Agency or Caltrans could take action to approve implementing tolling on the SR 156 corridor.