



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

October 23, 2024

State Route 68 Adaptive Signal Operations and Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Pilot Project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to fund the purchase and installation of adaptive signal controls at nine intersections along State Route 68. This project aims to improve traffic flow and safety by using real-time data to adjust signal timing, thereby reducing congestion and travel times.

The adaptive signal control technology adjusts the timing of red, yellow, and green lights to accommodate changing traffic patterns and ease traffic congestion. Unlike traditional traffic signals, which operate on fixed timings, adaptive signals use real-time data from sensors and cameras to optimize traffic flow. This technology is particularly beneficial during peak travel times and special events when traffic volumes can vary significantly.

The adaptive signal operations will serve as an interim solution, complementing the long-term improvements identified for the Scenic Highway 68 Corridor. The Board allocated \$500,000 in Regional Measure X funds for this purpose, demonstrating a significant investment in enhancing the efficiency of this critical transportation corridor. By implementing adaptive signal operations, TAMC and Caltrans aim to provide a smoother and more reliable travel experience for commuters and residents along State Route 68.

In conjunction with the adaptive signal project, the Board received an update on the Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Pilot Project. This project was initiated in response to concerns from residents about aggressive drivers using residential streets to bypass congestion on Highway 68. The pilot project included partial road closures on Torero Drive and Portola Drive, which successfully redirected traffic back to the highway, significantly improving the quality of life for residents in the affected areas. Funding for the pilot project was approved by the TAMC Board in May 2024, with

an allocation of up to \$150,000 from Measure X funds. These funds covered the costs of implementing the road closures and making necessary adjustments to the traffic management system. The project team will continue to work with the community and Caltrans to identify and implement long-term solutions to address cut-through traffic. A community workshop is planned for January 2025 to gather feedback and build consensus on a preferred long-term solution.

US 101 South of Salinas Project

The Board received an update on the US 101 South of Salinas project. The Notice of Preparation for this project was circulated, marking a significant step forward in addressing safety and operational deficiencies along this critical corridor. The project aims to improve the transportation network between Chualar and Salinas by reducing points of conflict and enhancing safety for all users. Proposed improvements include new interchanges, access control measures, and modifications to the existing road network.

The project team has narrowed the study area down to two potential locations for new interchanges: one near Chualar and another near Abbott Street south of Salinas. These locations were selected based on their potential to improve traffic flow and safety while minimizing impacts on the surrounding community and environment. The environmental phase of the project is funded with \$9.989 million of State Transportation Improvement Program funds. Caltrans has also identified near-term safety improvements that may be installed in advance of the long-term solutions under review. These improvements are expected to be fully funded by Caltrans through the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Caltrans is inviting the public to learn about the project, review the considered alternatives, and provide input on the upcoming draft environmental document. Information about the project is available on Caltrans's website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-current-projects/05-oh330>

Input regarding the scope of the forthcoming draft environmental impact report, environmental factors potentially affected, and project alternatives must be submitted to Caltrans no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2024.

For more information on these and other agenda items, please visit the TAMC website at www.tamcmonterey.org.