



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

www.tamcmonterey.org

HIGHLIGHTS

January 22, 2025

TAMC Board Elects New Officers & Executive Committee Members

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County elected the following members to serve as their officers and members of the Executive Committee:

- Wendy Askew, Chair
- Chaps Poduri, 1st Vice Chair
- Luis Alejo, 2nd Vice Chair
- Chris Lopez, Past Chair
- Glenn Church, County Representative
- Jose Rios, City Representative

Their terms began upon their election at the beginning of January 22, 2025, Board meeting through the next election of officers.

23rd Annual Transportation Excellence Awards

The Transportation Agency presented their 23rd Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor community members, programs and projects that make a significant contribution to improving transportation networks in Monterey County. This year's awards honorees are:

- Individual: Dwight Stump, for his leadership behind the public campaign to install Adaptive Signal Controls along a 8 mile stretch of the Highway 68 corridor. the
- Group: Toro Park Cut-through Traffic Pilot Project Community Group: Residents who acted to address their safety concerns regarding traffic that used their neighborhoods to bypass traffic on Highway 68.
- Program: "Safe Routes to School Participatory Budgeting Steering Committees" in the cities of Greenfield, Gonzales, Soledad, and King City to identify projects that would cost

under \$250,000 and could be constructed within a three-year timeline and would serve as a safe route to school.

- Program: Monterey-Salinas Transit's "Commute with Enterprise Vanpool Program," to increase transportation options for commuters in Monterey County.

Summaries of each honoree and their achievements are available on the TAMC website:

<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/2024-transportation-excellence-awards>

TAMC Board Members Appointed to the California Association of Councils of Governments

TAMC Board members Chaps Poduri and Mike LeBarre have been appointed to the California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG). The California Association of Council of Governments is a nonprofit organization formed to serve regional governments. Director Poduri was appointed as representative, and Director LeBarre was appointed as the alternate.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is one of 49 members. Like TAMC, most CalCOG members are involved in planning and funding transportation infrastructure. CalCOG provides a forum to share information between members, to learn how proposed State policies could impact TAMC's ability to deliver projects and create opportunities for CalCOG members to partner to advocate for solutions that benefit their constituents.

Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Pilot Project

The TAMC Board received an update and provided input on the recommendations for the Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Pilot Project.

TAMC has led the pilot project to address cut-through traffic using roads in Toro Park to bypass excessive congestion on State Route 68. Kimley-Horn is conducting a study on the pilot project that included partial road closures. The pilot project is scheduled to end in January when it will become the County of Monterey's responsibility to implement and maintain any interim and long-term solutions.

Phase I of the pilot project began on July 12, 2024, with a partial road closure at Torero Drive and Bravo Court which blocked over 500 drivers who were attempting to use neighborhood streets to bypass congestion. Improvements near the school improved drop-off traffic flow.

Phase II of the project began on September 27, 2024, with a partial road closure on Portola Drive and Creekside Court to address new cut-through routes. Some commuters were rerouted to congested areas.

The success and challenges of the project include:

- The pilot project reduced cut-through traffic.
- CHP monitored compliance, and emergency response times were unaffected.
- The school district reported improved traffic flow but noted challenges for rerouted school buses.
- Workshops gathered public input, showing strong support for the road closures. However, concerns included increased commute times, business access issues, and neighborhood bifurcation.

Recommendations and Next Steps going forth are:

- Develop a multiuse path linking the school to a nearby parking lot.
- Relocate Phase I and II closures to better locations.
- Maintain partial closures until a long-term solution is found.
- Use higher quality traffic control measures.
- Improve traffic flow at the school.
- Investigate safety concerns at State Route 68 and Torero Drive.
- Consider a transit-activated gate for buses during peak hours.

Future plans are to complete the Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic Study, incorporate findings into the Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Study, coordinate with County staff for interim and long-term projects, and apply for grants to fund improvements.

The Toro Park Cut-Through Pilot Project was funded with \$150,000 of Regional Measure X funds to plan and install the Toro Park Cut-Through Traffic pilot project. Contingent on future Board action, any funds remaining from the pilot project may be made available to implement interim solutions or conduct environmental documentation for the long-term solutions.

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