



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

HIGHLIGHTS

June 24, 2026

TAMC Board Receives Update on the Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors received an update on the Scenic State Route 68 Adaptive Traffic Signal Control pilot project and preliminary results analyzing the effectiveness of the proposed Phase 1 roundabouts project.

Phase I of the Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project would install roundabouts on State Route 68 at the intersections of San Benancio Road, Coral de Tierra, and Laureles Grade. The project includes new wildlife crossings beneath the highway and avoids adding mainline lanes. An independent assessment of the project is being conducted to compare project costs and expected benefits to determine the economic viability of this project. The recently installed adaptive signal project is now the baseline for this analysis.

An evaluation of the Phase I roundabout project has been completed using updated traffic data and conditions reflecting the implementation of adaptive signal operations as the baseline. The analysis confirms that the Phase I roundabout project is expected to improve safety and traffic operations along the corridor. Based on this evaluation, the proposed roundabouts at San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra Road, and Laureles Grade are projected to reduce the potential for serious injury and fatal collisions by simplifying intersection movements and lowering travel speeds.

These results indicate that while adaptive signal operations have provided measurable operational benefits, the Phase I roundabouts are expected to further improve safety outcomes and improve traffic throughput during peak periods. The higher traffic throughput expected from the hybrid roundabout design will shorten queues and reduce the peak period duration (i.e., congested conditions will occur for a shorter period of time).

Caltrans is the lead agency in charge of the Phase 1 roundabouts project design and is considering co-sponsoring with TAMC an upcoming Senate Bill 1 (SB1) grant application. The

Benefit-Cost Analysis comparing Adaptive Signals versus the Phase 1 roundabouts project and recommendations for next steps will be included in TAMC's August agenda.

Combined, the design, right-of-way, and construction phases of the Phase I Scenic Route 68 Project are projected at \$98.6 million. In March 2025, TAMC approved \$1.2 million of Measure X funds towards a five-year pilot project to install Adaptive Traffic Signal Controls at nine intersections on State Route 68 between Toro Park and Highway 1.

The goal of the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project is to improve safety and traffic flow between Monterey and Salinas while preserving the corridor's environmentally sensitive setting.

TAMC Board Adopts Resolution to Support Pilot Rail Service Connecting Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2028 Olympics

As a member of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, which advocates for improved passenger rail along the Central Coast rail corridor between San Jose and Los Angeles, TAMC's Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of a proposed passenger rail pilot service connecting Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2028 Olympics.

The pilot service is intended to leverage legislative interest in the Olympics to demonstrate the value of new passenger rail service in the Central Coast Rail Corridor and complement the Monterey County Rail Extension and planned expansion of service to San Luis Obispo from the north.

TAMC's Rail Policy Committee discussed the Olympic passenger rail pilot service proposal at its June 1, 2026, meeting and recommended that the Board of Directors approve a resolution supporting implementation of this service, which is consistent with TAMC's ongoing support for the Monterey County Rail Extension and implementation of new passenger rail service options and transit connections to communities across the County.

TAMC Board Adopts 2026 Regional Transportation Plan

The TAMC Board of Directors adopted the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan during their meeting. TAMC adopts a Regional Transportation Plan every four years to provide a basis for allocating state and federal funding to transportation projects in Monterey County. The 2026 Plan reflects changes in revenue forecasts and updated project lists from the local jurisdictions. TAMC prepares the plan in coordination with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) to be consistent with the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) includes three main components: 1) A Policy Element communicating goals and measurable objectives for improving the transportation system, 2) a Financial Element that includes a forecast of revenues over the life of the plan, and 3) an Action Element that includes a list of projects to be funded within the capacity of the funding forecast, which meet the goals and objectives identified in the document. The RTP does not approve any specific project but does review the environmental impacts of all proposed projects at a "program level."

The Regional Transportation Plan serves as Monterey County's long-range vision for a safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation system, guiding priorities over the next several decades. By establishing a coordinated and financially constrained roadmap, the RTP positions local agencies to compete for and secure critical state and federal funding, ensuring that regional and local projects can move forward. This plan not only aligns transportation investments with community goals but also provides the foundation for delivering improvements that support economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for residents throughout the county.