



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

August 24, 2022

TAMC Board Recognizes North Salinas High School Students and Teachers for their Artistic Contributions to the Safe Routes to School Program

The TAMC Board of Directors recognized a group of talented North Salinas High School students and their teachers, Ms. Jennifer Ghastin and Ms. Annemarie Glomson, for their artistic contributions to the Safe Routes to School “McKinnon Street Pop-Up Demonstration.”

With the guidance of their teachers, the students created colorful artistic pictures and safety messaging on ten horse troughs used as barriers to provide protection for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling on McKinnon Street in front of Harden Middle School during the spring pop-up demonstration.

Over the past couple of years, TAMC staff has incorporated art into bicycle and pedestrian projects. This includes artwork for a Safe Routes to School Activity Book, a native species matching game created by California State University Monterey Bay graphic design students. It also includes the colorful art painted on sidewalks to mark the safe route to school in Gonzales, Soledad and Greenfield by youth, community members, and the Safe Routes to School team, TAMC, Monterey County Health Department and Blue Zones Project.

TAMC staff is incorporating art into safe routes to school programming and projects to:

- Increase program visibility;
- Provide more opportunities to engage youth;
- Empower community members to create a sense of place; and
- Encourage more walking, bicycling, scootering, and skateboarding.

The Measure X Safe Routes to School program funds projects and programs that improve children's health by making walking and bicycling safer and easier. Programming focuses on ways to reduce traffic and speeding around schools. For more information about the program and upcoming art projects or to download the free activity book and matching game, visit: <https://saferoutesmonterey.org>.

\$20 Million for State Route 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange is at Risk

During an update on the status of the State Route (SR) 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project from Todd Muck, the Transportation Agency's Executive Director, the TAMC Board of Directors learned there is a risk of losing \$20 million in state funds secured to construct the project.

The SR 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is one of the regional safety and mobility projects listed in Measure X and approved by 67.7% of Monterey County voters in 2016. The Transportation Agency has successfully leveraged Measure X to secure full funding for the project with construction scheduled to start in late 2023.

Mr. Muck explained that the deadline for the project's \$20 million Trade Corridor Enhancement Program funding allocation is June 30, 2023, and while the engineering to complete the project's design and bid package is on track to meet the allocation deadline, the process to secure the Coastal Development Permits poses a risk that could result in the loss of \$20 million for the construction of the project.

Caltrans is leading the design and construction of the SR 156 Castroville Boulevard interchange project. The project is in the final phase before construction. Tasks in this phase include completing the 100% design, preparing the construction bid package, and getting permits from regulatory agencies. These tasks must be completed before the California Transportation Commission will allocate construction funding.

Monterey County staff reviewed the project for consistency with the North County Land Use Plan and the Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan. Their analysis concluded the project is consistent with both plans. On June 29, 2022, the County Planning Commission approved a Combined Development Permit that incorporated several Coastal Development Permits required for construction of the project. This approval has been appealed to the County Board of Supervisors. The hearing for this appeal is anticipated to be scheduled for September 13. After the Board of Supervisors acts, the project can be appealed further to the California Coastal Commission. The time required for an appeal to the Coastal Commission significantly increases the risk of missing the \$20 million Trade Corridor grant's construction funding allocation deadline.