



February 25, 2020

TO: Board Members, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
FROM: Gus Khouri, Principal
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RE: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – FEBRUARY

On February 19, TAMC officials and staff participated in the Central Coast Coalition's 10th Annual Legislative Day, arranged by Khouri Consulting. The Coalition is comprised of the five Central Coast Counties from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara. TAMC Chair Luis Alejo, First Vice Chair Ed Smith, Rail Policy Committee Vice Chair Dave Potter, Executive Director Debbie Hale, and Principal Transportation Planner Christina Watson were all in attendance.

The focus of this trip was on meeting with state agencies to discuss Senate Bill 1 grant priorities, transit farebox recovery relief to maintain service, and seeking funding for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing multi-modal options, such as passenger rail. The group met with California State Transportation Agency Secretary David Kim, California Transportation Commission Executive Director Mitchell Weiss, High Speed Rail Authority Chief Financial Officer Brian Annis, Caltrans Deputy Executive Director Jim Davis and District 5 Director Tim Gubbins.

TAMC-Sponsored Legislation

Senator Bill Monning will author Senate Bill 1231, on behalf of TAMC, to improve safety through the State Route 156 (SR 156) corridor. SR 156 is a major thoroughfare used by residents, commuters, tourists, and commercial trucks traveling to and from the Monterey Peninsula. More than 32,000 vehicles travel along SR 156 each weekday and even more travel along this corridor on weekends. 378 collisions were reported on SR 156 from 2005 to 2010, a rate that was 20% higher than the state average. From 2013 to 2018, there were 127 collisions with 2 fatalities and close to 200 injuries, 13 of those injuries being serious.

TAMC will be seeking to leverage Measure X dollars with prospective state grant funding through the SB 1 Cycle 2 competitive grant programs to eliminate collisions and fatalities through Castroville by widening lanes and building and interchange project. SB 1231 allows for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a permit for the incidental take of the Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander, which would allow for the safety improvements and enhanced mitigation for the species to occur.