

## **2020 Transportation Excellence Awards Nominations**

### **Group/Nominee Award:**

**Nominee: Monterey Salinas Transit**

**Nominator: TAMC**

**Description:** While challenged with declining ridership and revenues during this pandemic, Monterey Salinas Transit has maintained their commitment to service and excellence. Under the leadership of General Manager/CEO Carl Sedoryk and the MST Board of Directors, the agency, by their actions, demonstrated leadership and what “community service” is during multiple local crises, as well as a global pandemic when they heeded the call to meet the unprecedented challenges of 2020.

With reduced ridership and fewer routes in operation, MST redirected and utilized their available workforce and resources to support community needs and at the same time, avoid driver cutbacks. They met shelter in place with fare-free options and lead the charge in PPE and COVID-SAFE Protocols and safety. They donated two minibuses to a medical clinic to expand their ability to provide resources and medical services to essential agriculture workers, including the ability to conduct COVID-19 field testing, transportation for veterans and mobile Wi-Fi hot spots for students.

While under threat of evacuation at their own headquarters, they rescued and relocated citizens in need of transportation to safe shelter during the Dolan Fire this summer. Their volunteer “COVID-19 Community Support Task Force” delivered food via Meals on Wheels to seniors and as an organization their employees had an internal fund-raising drive to help support Hospitality Workers, again showing they are in touch with the heart of Monterey County.

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, MST passengers could ride free so that the lack of transportation would not prevent them from being able to exercise their right to vote. On December 1, passengers could also ride for free, in honor of Rosa Parks’ birthday in recognition that she changed the course of history when she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955. Her brave decision led to the Montgomery bus boycott, and ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that public bus segregation was unconstitutional.

Never losing sight of their mission to provide essential transportation service, MST made significant transportation advancements that include:

- the only transit agency in California selected to demonstrate the contactless fare payment system as part of Caltrans' California Integrated Travel Project, which is a statewide initiative to facilitate easy and accessible travel planning and payments.
- celebrating the groundbreaking of their Measure X and SB 1 funded South County Operations & Maintenance Center which will support existing and future transit needs in South County and bring approximately 190 well-paying, local jobs to the area through direct and indirect activities, advancing transit equity in Monterey County.

Perhaps the best way to sum up this nomination, is to quote Carl Sedoryk, “We work together to strengthen the community we serve and make Monterey County a healthier place to live and work.”

It is that commitment to innovation and resiliency that earned MST the “2020 Transit Innovation & Resiliency Award, from the California Transit Association’s Small Operators Committee. Carl’s response upon accepting the award, “Continuing to provide essential transportation services while contributing to the recovery of the whole community is what MST has been focused on, and we are honored to have been selected to receive this award.”

Monterey Salinas Transit efforts are truly commendable and deserves recognition for they have gone the extra mile and clearly demonstrated that they are driving the heart of Monterey County and have earned a 2020 Transportation Excellence Award!

**Projects:**

**Nominee: Citywide Traffic Signal Adaptation**

**Nominator:** Andrea Renny, City Traffic Engineer, City of Monterey

**Description:** The City of Monterey, California, is unique in that it has a population of 28,000 residents, but as a tourist destination, it can attract over 4 million visitors per year. Additionally, about 20,000 people commute to Monterey for employment. The City was experiencing significant roadway congestion along its arterials, more specifically on the Lighthouse/Del Monte corridor, which created inefficient traffic flow resulting in considerable emissions of pollutants and particulate matter as well as driver frustration.

To address the congestion, City staff researched the different Adaptive Traffic Control Systems (ATCS), which are the latest technology advances for improving traffic conditions by better synchronizing and controlling traffic signals. ATCSs use vehicle detection and artificial intelligence software to respond accurately and immediately to real-time traffic conditions. This enables the system to progress traffic through a corridor with few or no stops.

The City chose the Split Cycle Offset Optimization Technique System (SCOOT) which models traffic detected on-street to adapt three key traffic control parameters continuously – the amount of green for each approach (Split), the time between adjacent signals (Offset), and the time allocated for all approaches to a signalized intersection (Cycle time). As a result, the signal timing evolves with the changing traffic volumes and demands which includes the unforeseen reduction and changes in traffic patterns during the Shelter in Place order issued due to Covid-19, making SCOOT a one-of-a-kind predictive adaptive traffic solution.

There are currently has 21 intersections running on Scoot adaptive system in the City of Monterey. The corridors include: Lighthouse Avenue, Del Monte Avenue and North Fremont Street. Implementation is underway at Munras Avenue (includes Fremont) and Foam Street. Pacific Street and Franklin Street will follow next. The result is that this project with its efficient and coordinated traffic signals benefits those who work, live, and visit Monterey through travel time reduction; quality of life, economic and safety improvements resulting from the adaptive system implementation.

Additionally, by combining multiple funding sources and leveraging Measure X dollars, staff was able to fund the system implementation, saving on cost and time. Managing the project in house, has allowed the City to efficiently implement necessary equipment upgrades, fiber optic communication installation and install the adaptive system; and eliminate mark up costs and profit margins, for an estimated cost savings of over \$700,000 for this large citywide project.

**Nominee: Gloria Road/Iverson/Johnson Canyon Road Pavement Reconstruction Project**

**Nominator:** Patrick Dobbins, Public Works Director, City of Gonzales

**Description:** The \$7 million Gloria/Iverson/Johnson Canyon Road Pavement Reconstruction Project is nominated to recognize the unique collaboration between the County of Monterey, the City of Gonzales, and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority.

Gloria Road/Iverson/Johnson Canyon Road are the truck routes for Waste Authority trucks between their Johnson Canyon Landfill and US Highway 101. Prior to the project, the pavement on these roads were full of potholes and had failed because they were not designed to accommodate the large number of trucks traveling on them.

Working together, the County, City of Gonzales, and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, with their contractor, Granite Construction were able to reconstruct 5-miles of the collective roadways ahead of schedule despite Covid-19, summer heat waves, heavy smoke from the Dolan Fire, and the difficulty of getting some of the construction materials.

The benefits from this three-way public agency partnership included:

- Cost-savings for the City of Gonzales' section of Gloria Road because they were included in the larger County project.
- The City's Public Works Director was able to serve as the Senior Project Manager, overseeing the preparation of construction documents and environmental clearances.
- The County issued the project for bid, administered the construction, and inspect the work, and work from their field office, located in a City-owned building close to the construction site.
- Utilizing the full-depth reclamation approach for the reconstruction, the project minimized traffic disturbances, environmental impacts, and construction costs.
- The Solid Waste Authority reviewed construction documents and contributed \$2.3 million to the reconstruction ensuring that their needs from their 2007 landfill expansion will be met.

Due to the close coordination by the agencies, consultants, and Granite Construction, this major roadway project was completed in less than two years and a newly reconstructed Gloria Road/Iverson/Johnson Canyon Road is benefiting the communities and business who travel along the roadways.