

Executive Summary

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is designated by the State of California to serve as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the County. The mission of the Agency is to proactively plan and fund a transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environmental quality, and economic activities by investing in regional transportation projects serving the needs of Monterey County residents, businesses, and visitors. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County's 2022 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan (or "Plan") is a road map to meeting our transportation challenges and achieving these goals.

The Transportation Agency is governed by a 17-member Board of Directors representing the five-county Supervisorial Districts, each of Monterey County's 12 incorporated cities, and ex-officio members representing the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD), the Monterey Regional Airport, the City of Watsonville, and California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

The Transportation Agency prepares the Regional Transportation Plan every four years, which provides a basis for actions to allocate state and federal funding to transportation projects. The Agency prepares its plan in coordination with AMBAG, which prepares a Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the tri-county Monterey Bay Area in its role as the federal Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region. These plans outline the Agency's priorities for meeting future transportation and mobility needs, consistent with the policy goals and objectives adopted by the Agency, as well as within the constraints of transportation revenue forecast over the 22-year planning horizon of the document.

Goals and Policies

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County's 2022 Regional Transportation Plan's adopted policy element includes a framework of goals and policy objectives used to guide the development of the 2022 Plan. Chapter 2 presents the goals, policy objectives, and performance metrics for the Plan. Goal areas include:

- Access & Mobility;
- Safety & Health;
- Environmental Stewardship;
- Equity; and
- Economic Vitality.

Dozens of performance metrics were established to measure how well the 2022 Plan performs relative to these performance metrics. Investments in the 2022 Plan are expected to result in significant benefits to the region concerning transportation mobility, economic activity and job creation, sustainability, and equity.

The 2022 Regional Transportation Plan addresses a strategic expansion of the transportation network, supportive of mobility improvements to bus transit, rail, highway safety, active transportation, and local streets and roads projects.

Financial Element

For years, the primary transportation funding challenge was decreasing revenues, contrasted with increasing needs. However, with the passage of Measure X, a 3/8% sales tax dedicated to improving Monterey County's transportation network, and the passage of Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, Monterey County is forecasted to receive significantly more funding to meet its transportation needs. Measure X is expected to raise an estimated \$20 million annually, or a total of \$600 million over 30 years. Sixty percent (60%) of the funds are distributed to local cities and the county for road maintenance and safety projects, and the remaining 40% is designated for regional mobility and safety improvements. Similarly, Senate Bill 1 will provide as much as double that amount for both local and regional projects in Monterey County, through a combination of increased formula-based funds and competitive grant opportunities.

The 2022 Regional Transportation Plan includes a revenue forecast of \$6.7 billion in state, federal, and local funding that is reasonably expected to be available through the 2045 horizon year of the Plan.

Public Outreach

The 2022 Regional Transportation Plan was informed by a combination of past and present, in-person and virtual public engagement activities, and outreach opportunities. Outreach included a public survey on defining regional transportation priorities for Monterey County (presented in both Spanish & English) and a series of public meetings and workshops, intended to inform the development of the Plan. Outreach activities are detailed in Appendix A.

Plan Components

The main components of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan include:

- The Policy Element;
- The Financial Element and fund estimate;
- Transportation Investments included in the plan; and
- Environmental Documentation