

Section 19. Fact Sheet

A. Executive Summary

Monterey County's 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program reflects Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)'s dedication to improving statewide and regional travel by constructing high-priority highway, regional road, rail, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects throughout the region. To ensure efficient coordination among the various fund sources, TAMC has prepared an Integrated Funding Strategy that overlaps with its 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The Integrated Funding Strategy identifies projects that are strong candidates for specific Senate Bill 1 competitive programs, STIP and other matching funds, and can be brought to construction or become shovel-ready over the next five years. Utilizing this strategy, the Transportation Agency can make significant progress on two priority regional projects in the next five years:

- Scenic State Route 68 Safety & Traffic Flow
- US 101 South of Salinas

B. Benefits

The following is a narrative on the regional benefits of the **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** for Monterey County:

- Access & Mobility: The 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Monterey County improves the ability of Monterey County residents to safely meet daily needs with improved travel times and reduced congestion. The Scenic State Route 68 project improves the convenience and quality of trips, especially for walk, bike, transit, and car/vanpool trips, and the US 101 South of Salinas project also improves freight trips.
- Safety & Health: The Transportation Agency for Monterey County coordinates with our partner agencies to design, operate, and manage the transportation system in a manner that reduces serious injuries and fatalities, promotes active living, and lessens exposure to pollution. To that end, all the projects in this 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Monterey County are designed to improve safety.
- Environmental Stewardship: All the projects programmed in the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Monterey County seek to protect and enhance the County's built and natural environment, and act to reduce the transportation system's emission of greenhouse gases.

Social Equity: The 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Monterey County reduces disparities in healthy, safe access to key destinations for transportation-disadvantaged populations and demonstrates that planned investments do not adversely impact transportation-disadvantaged populations.

C. Goals and Objectives

The Policy Element of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan provides a framework for evaluating transportation projects to meet Monterey County's mobility needs over the next twenty years. To develop transportation improvements that support land use assumptions in the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy, the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan incorporates goals, objectives and performance measures that are oriented toward achieving a balanced transportation system. This policy framework moves away from automobile-oriented goals and instead evaluates how well the planned system transports people and goods. The Policy Element of the regional plan is derived from the Smart Mobility Framework developed by Caltrans, which has been used by other regions across California to address state sustainability planning requirements. The Transportation Agency has supported the goals of SB 375 to ensure our planning efforts are aligned with the proposed GHG targets for our region. This **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** is consistent with these efforts by supporting projects that will relieve congestion, support multi-modal transportation (rail, transit, and bike / pedestrian), and promote environmental preservation, all of which will help to improve regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

For alignment with Statewide climate goals, The **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** integrates sustainability as the State aims to achieve its ambitious climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. The newly adopted California Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) details how the state recommends spending discretionary transportation funding in a manner that can help aggressively combat climate change while supporting public health, safety, and equity through investments in projects that will reduce vehicle miles traveled. The **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** aims to address these challenges and result in safer, healthier and more effective transportation solutions that improve multimodal access to jobs, housing, education and other essential resources for residents and visitors alike.

Key goods movement routes in Monterey County include the US 101 and State Route 156. Freight routes in Monterey County are identified as significantly important for the movement of freight, particularly agricultural products, as Salinas Valley is home to the top vegetable producing land in the nation. The US 101 serves as the main north-south corridor for goods movement between Los Angeles and San Francisco and is the primary corridor for goods movement into and out of the Central Coast Counties. The **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** aligns with the State's goals for freight and goods movement by funding critical safety and goods movement improvements to US 101 South of Salinas.

Advancing equity in Monterey County is a core goal of the Regional Transportation Plan, touching on equity across race, income, and geography. The Plan aims to promote equity through proactively reducing the risk of disproportionate impacts from transportation construction or operations; through proactively engaging low-income, minority and low-mobility groups in the transportation planning process; and by reducing barriers to safe transportation options for youth and seniors. Beyond these metrics of equity, in August 2021 the Transportation Agency adopted a Racial Equity Program. The **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** aligns with the State's equity initiatives by funding improvements to historically disadvantaged areas while incorporating a robust public outreach effort.