



December 5, 2024

Tab 59

Chair Carl Guardino and Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Commission Agenda Tab #59: Support for Staff Recommendation

Dear Chair Guardino:

On behalf of Monterey-Salinas Transit, we support California Transportation Commission staff's recommendation for approval of tab #59 on your Commission's agenda for December 5 & 6. The item is to approve a credit for Monterey Branch Line property purchased with Proposition 116 funds.

You may recall from your California Transportation Commission visit to Monterey in June during your transportation tour, the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project supports statewide goals to support climate action, reduce GHG emissions, serve disadvantaged communities, and better serve ALL residents. The SURF! Project is on CalSTA's Cycle 5 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program award list for \$25M.

MST supports this Commission action because it aligns with years of planning and local support for the SURF! Project. The Project is a 6-mile bus rapid transit project which will bring frequent and reliable bus service to residents of Monterey County including those in disadvantaged communities as well as Salinas, Marina, Sand City, Seaside, and Monterey. Transit connections to other lines will serve the entire Monterey County service area.

After years of careful planning, the California Coastal Commission approved a Coastal Development Permit for the SURF! Project which requires the busway alignment to be located atop the railroad tracks. Although the railroad tracks will be removed, the alignment change still allows for and supports a future rail project. There remains adequate space along the 100' wide corridor for rail service when it becomes viable whether it be commuter, intercity, or light rail.

Additionally, MST is working together with the Federal Transit Administration to secure a Capital Investment Grant for over \$22.17M for the SURF! Project by January 14th. The California Transportation Commission's action today is an approval necessary to secure this federal funding for the SURF! Project.

Finally, MST has received numerous letters of support for the SURF! Project including from the California Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Bay Air Resources Board, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Monterey County Mayors' Association, and many more. A full list of these supporters is included in the attachment and can be read online at: [SURF! Letters of Support](#)

Again, we support your approval of tab #59 and look forward to inviting the California Transportation Commission to groundbreaking in spring 2025.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Carbone
Chair

MST Board of Directors:

Mayor Mary Ann Carbone, Chair, City of Sand City
Lorraine Worthy, Vice Chair, City of Gonzales
Jeff Baron, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Kim Shirley, City of Del Rey Oaks
Ariana Rodriguez, City of Greenfield
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Liesbeth Visscher, City of Marina
Ed Smith, City of Monterey
Joe Amelio, City of Pacific Grove
Tony Barrera, City of Salinas
Dave Pacheco, City of Seaside
Mayor Anna Velazquez, City of Soledad
Luis Alejo, County of Monterey

Attachment: List of SURF! Supporters

Our Supporters

Alliance on Aging
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Blue Zones Project Monterey County
California Department of Transportation
California State Parks
California State University Monterey Bay
CHISPA
City of King
City of Marina
City of Monterey
City of Salinas
City of Sand City
Future Leaders of Change
iTN Monterey County
JW Architects, Inc.
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey Bay Air Resources District
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Monterey County Farm Bureau
Monterey County Hospitality Association
Monterey County Mayors' Association
Monterey County Office of Education
Monterey Peninsula College
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
MST Mobility Advisory Committee
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
United Veterans Council of Monterey County

