



May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Honorable Stephanie Hulsey  
Judge of the Superior Court  
c/o Office of the County Counsel  
Attention: Sandra Ontiveros  
168 W. Alisal Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Subject:** Response to the 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Final Report's Findings and Recommendations regarding "Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem"

Dear Judge Hulsey:

The mission of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environmental quality, and economic activities in Monterey County. Elected officials from each of the twelve incorporated cities in Monterey County, and all five County Supervisors, represent the public on the TAMC Board of Directors. As the State-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Monterey County, the Transportation Agency monitors traffic congestion, identifies transportation improvements, as well as manages and disperses funds necessary to meet Monterey County's transportation needs.

The following is the response of TAMC to the findings and recommendations in the Civil Grand Jury Final Report titled "Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem". In this letter, we have responded directly to the conclusions, findings, and recommendations of the Grand Jury to demonstrate that TAMC has been actively engaged in activities that comply with or go beyond all of the Grand Jury's recommendations. Most significantly, these efforts include the efforts to develop Regional Vision Zero Action Plan to identify areas with the greatest safety issues in Monterey County and recommend solutions.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRAND JURY**

The Civil Grand Jury began to investigate road safety and maintenance in Monterey County after receiving a complaint regarding a left-turn lane on a State highway in Monterey County. The investigation revealed that road safety projects are lengthy and complex processes which involve private property issues, engineering studies, environmental impact studies, cooperation between jurisdictions, sufficient funding in a time of scarce resources, public hearings, hiring of skilled contractors, and, finally, breaking ground and beginning construction.

The investigation also found that it is difficult for members of the public to determine which entity is responsible for roadways, how decisions about transportation funding are made, and how to report a road safety or maintenance concern. Each of the 12 incorporated cities in Monterey County, as well as the County of Monterey and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), are responsible for roadways in Monterey County.

The Civil Grand Jury provided findings and recommendations related to the various agencies responsible for Monterey County roadways. Three of the findings and two of the recommendations pertain to TAMC, and those findings and recommendations are listed below.

### **Grand Jury Findings**

*F7. The Collision Data Map on TAMC's website was last updated in 2018 and does not provide up-to-date information for Monterey County residents.*

*F8. TAMC's outreach survey could be made more useful to TAMC and the public by incorporating a section where the public may report unsafe traffic or road conditions.*

*F9. Caltrans, TAMC, and the Monterey County Department of Public Works collaborate effectively with local municipalities to complete road and traffic projects.*

### **Grand Jury Recommendations**

*R7. TAMC update the Collision Data Map to include data from 2018 to the present on its website by 12/31/25.*

*R8. TAMC expand the public outreach survey on its website to solicit public feedback and invite questions from the public regarding its plans and projects as well as traffic and road safety concerns by 9/30/25.*

The Civil Grand Jury required TAMC, through a formal request from the Office of the County Counsel, to respond to Findings F7 – F9 and Recommendations R7 and R8.

### **TAMC RESPONSE**

TAMC concurs with the Civil Grand Jury on Findings F7-F9 and both recommendations. Responses to the recommendations are below.

***R7. TAMC update the Collision Data Map to include data from 2018 to the present on its website by 12/31/25.***

TAMC is currently working on the Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan, which will analyze collision data throughout Monterey County and provide recommendations to improve

traffic safety. Updated collision data will be available through that planning process in summer 2025, and staff will replace the outdated collision map with updated data when it is available.

***R8. TAMC expand the public outreach survey on its website to solicit public feedback and invite questions from the public regarding its plans and projects as well as traffic and road safety concerns by 9/30/25.***

TAMC will expand the 'Contact Us' form on the TAMC website to include space to report traffic safety or maintenance issues and other feedback on our plans and projects. TAMC will forward reports to the appropriate jurisdiction. There is also a page on the TAMC website titled 'Bike Service Request Form' where members of the public can report a maintenance or safety issue related to bicycling on Monterey County roadways.

In addition to the actions listed above, many of TAMC's activities focused on improving safety on Monterey County roadways provide opportunities for the public to report a road safety or maintenance concern. A summary of additional efforts to improve safety is below.

**Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan:** As mentioned above, development of the Vision Zero Action Plan is currently in progress. The plan includes an analysis of countywide collision data and the development of recommendations to improve safety on Monterey County roadways. Recommendations will include engineering projects, education campaigns, and policy and process changes. Project lists will be developed for the ten jurisdictions in Monterey County that do not either already have a safety action plan or are currently developing one, and the plan will also include regional recommendations that may be implemented by TAMC or partner agencies. The plan includes several phases of outreach where community members can report safety issues and provide feedback on the draft recommendations.

**Traffic Crash Database Management System:** TAMC received a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to procure a regional traffic crash database and analytics tool and an electronic crash records system. This system will be available to all jurisdictions in Monterey County with the goal of improving data accuracy and streamlining the current process used to submit crash data to the California Highway Patrol. Implementation of this system would mean that more up-to-date collision data would be available for analysis by local agencies.

**Safe Routes to Schools Plans:** Since 2018, TAMC has developed and adopted Safe Routes to Schools Plans for the Cities of Marina and Seaside, Salinas, and the South County cities of Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King City. TAMC is currently developing a Safe Routes to Schools Plan for the unincorporated areas of North Monterey County, including Castroville, Prunedale, Las Lomas, and Pajaro. Each of these planning efforts includes extensive community outreach collecting input on safety issues in each community.

**US 101 South of Salinas:** TAMC's role includes identifying regional transportation needs, all of which are focused on improving safety. One example is the US 101 South of Salinas project, which will address uncontrolled intersections on US 101 that have seen high collision rates. TAMC is partnering with Caltrans on the project, which includes interim safety improvements and a longer-term plan for a new interchange and frontage road on US 101. In 2024 alone, 45 meetings were held to answer questions and solicit community feedback.

In addition to the projects listed above, all TAMC planning efforts include community outreach, much of which is focused on safety issues that community members would like to see addressed.

TAMC appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury. TAMC will continue to focus efforts on safety improvements and work to provide more opportunities for community members to give input on safety and maintenance needs.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Root Askew*

Wendy Root Askew (May 28, 2025 16:27 PDT)

Wendy Root Askew, Chair  
Transportation Agency for Monterey County