



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is State Route 68 important?**

State Route 68 is a designated scenic route that connects the Monterey Peninsula to US Highway 101 and the Salinas Valley. SR 68 is a key travel route between Salinas and Monterey, which accommodates traffic generated by commuters, tourists and special events in the region at a volume of 25,000 to 30,000 vehicles each day.

- **What will the Monterey-Salinas Scenic Highway 68 Plan accomplish?**

The plan will provide the data, analysis, and public input necessary to identify affordable, sustainable projects that can be implemented over the next 20 years in the scenic corridor. The Plan will evaluate current and future travel patterns between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula in context to other planning regional improvements serving the same commuter market, and the potential for wildlife connectivity enhancements. The Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) will actively engage the public and partner agencies, and will use the plan to determine affordable strategies that contribute to the long-range sustainability of SR 68.

- **What do wildlife connectivity enhancements entail?**

The ecological footprint of a road network extends far beyond its physical footprint due to road mortality, habitat fragmentation, and other indirect impacts. The California Department of Transportation California, together with the Department of Fish and Game, developed a number of strategies intended to decrease the negative impacts of roads on the natural environment, such as wildlife habitat fragmentation and wildlife-vehicle collisions. Wildlife crossing structures—such as wildlife overpasses, underpasses, bridges, and culverts—can facilitate wildlife movement across roads, especially when integrated with appropriate roadside fencing. Effective wildlife mitigation techniques can reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, and are therefore as important to human safety as they are to habitat connectivity.

- **Why is this project necessary?**

The project is essential to sustaining traffic capacity and volumes based on future conditions. SR 68 corridor studies have been in progress since the mid-1990s. A series of operational improvements were implemented as a result these studies, the last of which is now in the final planning stages. In 2012, Caltrans completed a Transportation Concept Report (TCR) for SR 68 that recommended additional study to determine needed

improvements for the SR 68 Corridor between Salinas and Monterey. The 2014 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies some needed improvements for the corridor, including upgrading the Corral de Tierra intersection, which is programmed for construction in fiscal year 2016/17.

- **What agency is responsible for the Plan?**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is a state-designated public agency with regional transportation planning responsibilities that cross city-county boundaries. The Agency is committed to planning, funding and delivering transportation projects for the region. The Agency is also committed to providing information to the public about its projects, plans and activities, ensuring public participation and fostering public understanding of its functions.

- **How long will it take to complete the Plan?**

The preparation of the Monterey-Salinas Scenic Highway 68 Plan was initiated in December 2015 and is expected to progress through December 2017, at which time the Plan will be considered for adoption by the TAMC Board of Directors.

- **How can the public get involved?**

We will be soliciting public feedback throughout the project to assist in determining what transportation needs must be met to ensure the corridor's sustainability. Public workshops will be conducted through the course of the project to foster community engagement. Informational materials will be made available on TAMC's social media site MySidewalk to solicit participation and input from citizens who wouldn't typically participate in traditional public outreach activities.