

# MBUAPCD

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## **AB2766 Grant leads to \$2.77 Million grant for Bus Rapid Transit in the Monterey Peninsula.**

On December 16, 2009, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 (House Resolution 3288) Appropriated \$2.77 million to Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) for a Bus Rapid Transit project in the Monterey Peninsula. The \$2.77 million will be matched by \$700,000 in California Proposition 1B state funds already available to MST. The nearly \$3.5 million construction project will fund improvements along Lighthouse Avenue, Foam Street and Fremont Street in Monterey and Fremont Boulevard in Seaside, to the Edgewater Shopping Center in Sand City, including:

- New shelters,
- Smart signals at intersections,
- Signal coordination along the corridor,
- Curb expansions,
- Sidewalk improvements and wheelchair accessible ramps at bus stops, and
- Electronic real-time changeable messages at bus stops.

The “smart” signals will help improve traffic flow for buses as well as cars throughout the corridor. For example, if a bus is running late, signals will stay green slightly longer than normal so the bus can get through intersections to get back on schedule. The new electronic message signs will tell passengers waiting at stops exactly how long before the next bus arrives. At key intersections, buses will get bypass lanes, providing quicker bus travel along the corridor.

This Federal grant was made possible by a FY 2006 grant of \$80,000 in AB2766 funds from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. In 2007, that grant enabled MST to contract with a consulting firm who prepared the Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility study and application which won the federal grant. The study identified high-traffic candidate corridors to upgrade to Bus Rapid Transit. On the Lighthouse/ Fremont Corridor, MST currently had more than sufficient summertime bus ridership to qualify for Federal funding.

The project will include enhancements to operations and scheduling of the bus service in the Fremont/Lighthouse corridor, so that what is now a nearly a one hour trip from upper Seaside to Cannery Row and the Aquarium with a transfer in downtown Monterey will become a quick “one-seat-ride” on Bus Rapid Transit. For more information, visit [www.mst.org](http://www.mst.org) or call Monterey-Salinas Transit toll free at 1-888-MST-BUS1.