



April 9, 2021

Michelle Overmeyer, Director of Planning and Innovation
Monterey-Salinas Transit, 19 Upper Ragsdale, Suite 200, Monterey, CA 93940
Phone: (831) 264-5877
Email: movermeyer@mst.org

Subject: Mitigated Negative Declaration for The Surf! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project

Dear Ms. Overmeyer:

LandWatch Monterey County strongly supports the proposed project. The proposed SURF! line is a 6-mile bus-only corridor from Marina to Sand City and Seaside along a publicly owned corridor parallel to Highway 1. The corridor is on an abandoned rail track that TAMC bought and has preserved for transit. The SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project is part of a larger effort to build a modern mobility network for the Monterey Peninsula and beyond.

LandWatch recommends MST revise the Mitigated Negative Declaration to provide an estimate of GHG emissions resulting from reduced trips with a comparison to increased mobile emissions from the project itself. MST estimates that by the year 2025 (or upon operation), the busway could attract a ridership of over 2,300 passengers per day, with an annual ridership of over 600,000. MST and TAMC estimate the project will remove 544,582 vehicle trips per year from the roadway network (Appendix 11). However, the Mitigated Negative Declaration does not quantify emission reductions from reduced trips.

With heavy traffic on the highway, transit riders will enjoy a faster connection between home and work or wherever they go, with a projected 16-minute reduction in travel time along the 6-mile stretch of Highway 1 compared to peak pre-COVID commute times. In addition, every bus rider represents one less car on the road, which means less air and ocean pollution and a healthier community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Sincerely,

Michael D. DeLapa
Executive Director