

**Thank you for your consideration** of these public comments for Nov 7, 2018 TAMC bike-ped meeting, submitted by Mari Lynch, resident of rural unincorporated Monterey County:

1. **Media items.** Packet says no media items, although on September 5th, a *Gonzales Tribune* article was submitted for the next meeting's packet via email:  
<https://gonzalestribune.com/article/bicycling-gonzales-and-elsewhere-in-monterey-county>. (For that *Tribune* article plus related info, see [bikemonterey.org](http://bikemonterey.org) post <https://bit.ly/BikeLawAdvocacy>.)
2. **Correction for previous minutes, Item 6 – “accidents.”** Such events are not "accidents," since they're avoidable. Much effort is made by many of us bike advocates to get media, law enforcement, and others to refer to such events as collisions or crashes, not accidents. Locally we've made good progress in that regard, and it would be appreciated if TAMC staff would likewise be alert for “accident” references in their documents. Thanks.
3. **Update to previous minutes, Item 6 – rumble strips.** "They are removing the rumble strips and repaving on Highway 68." Rumble strips on Hwy 68 East (CA SR 68 Monterey-Salinas Highway) have been installed, as part of repaving 7 miles of the Monterey end of that highway. I've noted too David Caneer's letter about rumble strips in the current packet; and I'm aware that he'd likewise expressed appreciation for rumble strips in a Jan 22, 2013 letter to TAMC. I bike across them frequently, and although not pleasant, I nonetheless appreciate that rumble strips can help get the attention of distracted drivers. If you're interested, ask Frank Henderson to explain differences in some various rumble strips around the county.
4. **68 East repaving done, and the continued need for bike boxes.** (*Note: Some people confuse the term “bike boxes” with bicycle lockers. FYI, a bicycle box “gives bicyclists a head-start when the light turns green as well as improves their visibility to motorists who can see in which direction cyclists are proceeding.” Learn more in Bicycling Monterey's post <https://bit.ly/RightToRoad>.)* Unfortunately, no bike boxes were part of the summer 2018 repaving of that 7 miles of 68 East. On July 25, 2017, I had submitted a request to Caltrans for bike boxes at intersections of two well-traveled bike routes: 68 at Olmsted Road, and 68 at Hwy 218 / Canyon Del Rey; no response was received from Caltrans until about 9 months later, on April 19, 2018. (Just fyi, on January 27, 2018, I also brought this matter to the attention of Rich Deal, after learning he was now at TAMC working on highway projects). The Caltrans repaving, restriping, and rumble strip work was done in summer 2018. No bike boxes. Painting bike boxes during repaving seemed cost efficient to me. However, Rich's understanding of the Caltrans response was that the 2018 repaving project was a maintenance project, and “approving and installing bike boxes would follow a different path.” Not being a transportation engineer, it didn't seem to me that a bicycle box at a couple intersections of an existing road would require an environmental review, since bike boxes don't cause a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Hey, maybe the fact that bike boxes help reduce carbon emissions requires a CEQA review process! All kidding aside, if some of you would like to see bike boxes at those intersections, perhaps you'd be willing to pick up the baton in advocating for them.
5. **TAMC's Bike Service Request Form.** (<https://bit.ly/RptBikewayProb>) In the past, when a request for maintenance was submitted via TAMC's site, some sort of acknowledgement was usually received. This hasn't been the case recently (for example, about **uneven pavement on Mark Thomas bike lanes**, recently repaved). If the bike-ped committee would like to encourage the public to help bring attention to such needs, I encourage TAMC

staff prioritizing some sort of personal response to the sender. Exceptions could be made when TAMC is sure that the responsible agency has promptly responded to the sender.

6. **Bike the Vote, including Prop 6.** I've publicized position of TAMC, MST, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, California Bicycle Coalition, and others on Prop 6, e.g., <https://bit.ly/NoOnProp6>. You may also be interested to see the CA Secretary of State's collaboration with Smart Girls on a bike-to-vote video, shared Nov 5 by League of American Bicyclists: <https://twitter.com/BikeLeague/status/1059458699054473226>
7. **Follow-up regarding Monterey County Sheriff's Office deputy driving patrol vehicle collided with person on bicycle.**
  - It was reported by the *Californian* and KION that a Feb 26, 2018 collision happened on Natividad Road, near Juvenile Hall. Media reports indicated that the person on the bicycle was taken to Natividad Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. Monterey County Sheriff's Office referred questions to California Highway Patrol, the investigating law enforcement agency for this collision.
  - I phoned CHP to inquire. CHP referred me to MCSO. I phoned MCSO and received no response to my request for info (I miss Michael Moore being at MCSO, very responsive).
  - KION's video showed five law enforcement vehicles at the scene. The *Californian* report stated that the name of the deputy wasn't released because MCSO didn't know whether there would be a personnel issue with the case.
  - On March 5<sup>th</sup>, I asked the *Californian* and KION reporters if they were going to do a follow-up, and also brought the collision to the attention of the *Monterey County Weekly*.
  - I contacted the *Weekly* (local, independent media) via email March 1, 7; and also phoned a *Weekly* reporter in March, who told me someone at the *Weekly* would check into the collision. However, nothing more was heard from the *Weekly*, so I emailed the *Weekly* editor follow-up inquiries on May 19, 31, and Oct 26; a reply was received Nov 5.
  - To my knowledge no local media have followed up yet—not the *Californian* or KION (who'd initially reported this collision), or *Weekly* (who've not yet reported on it at all).
  - ***I bring this to the committee's attention because:*** I appreciate our local law enforcement agencies (e.g., see <https://bit.ly/CopsOnBikes> and many other police-related posts on bikemonterey.org). Nonetheless, I often contact local LE agencies when something bicycling-related seems questionable or worthy of further attention (e.g., collision circumstances such as <http://bit.ly/RogelioVasquezLopez>; Greenfield citation mentioned in <http://bit.ly/BikeLawsMRYCounty>; unresolved hit-and-runs such as <https://bit.ly/KiluGarcia>; and other situations involving or potentially impacting people who bike in Monterey County.
  - Perhaps someone from the bike-ped committee has the time and interest to check into the investigation outcome regarding that February 26, 2018 collision.
8. **Thanksgiving week 2018 is the 9th anniversary of the HER Helmet Thursdays Project.** Updates for 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of guide are now in process. Please contact [bikemonterey.org](http://bikemonterey.org) if you might be able to volunteer with this or other Bicycling Monterey projects (<https://bit.ly/BikeMRYProjects>), either one time, or on an ongoing basis. My work on all projects 2009-2018, including the [bikemonterey.org](http://bikemonterey.org) site, has been done as an unpaid volunteer. There are thousands of site visitors monthly, and many appreciative comments made (<https://bit.ly/SayBikeMRY>). Total contributions averaged \$3 a day. ***Thank you for your consideration, and thanks to all who have volunteered, or otherwise contributed.***