FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MST INSTALLS FIVE SOLAR POWERED "NEXT BUS" SIGNS IN SOUTH COUNTY

Recent studies have shown that transit users feel like they wait about 50 percent longer than they actually do and suggest some riders would prefer accurate real-time information about when their bus will arrive rather than more frequent service. ¹ To decrease perceived wait times in rural communities, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) has installed five solar powered signs in South County cities that will use GPS technology to provide the actual real-time bus arrivals for Lines 23 Salinas – King City and 82 Fort Hunter Liggett – Salinas *Express*.

The bus stops with this new technology include Soledad Mission Shopping Center (both directions) in Soledad; Santa Lucia Shopping Center in <u>Greenfield</u>; and Mee Memorial Hospital and Division & Canal in King City.

Funding was provided through the federal Rural Transit & Intercity Bus 5311(f) program. Additional next bus signage will be installed in the future as funding becomes available.

For more information, visit www.mst.org or call Monterey-Salinas Transit toll free at 1-888-MST-BUS1. Follow MST on Twitter @mst_bus for the latest service alerts. (You need not have a Twitter account to access that information; just go to http://www.twitter.com/mst_bus

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Thanks to Zoe Shoats of Monterey -Salinas Transit for keeping Monterey County's bike-and-riders up to date on MST news.

¹ Badger, Emily "<u>How to Make Waiting for the Bus Feel Much, Much Shorter</u>." The Atlantic January 2014. Web. February 2014.