



November 13, 2025

Traffic & Transportation Commission  
City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Ave  
Salinas, CA 93901

**RE: Harden Parkway Path and Safe  
Routes to School Project**

Dear Chair Hamer and Commissioners:

Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) provides public transportation throughout Monterey County and operates an extensive bus network in the City of Salinas and transit hub in the City's Downtown. MST strongly supports projects that promote active transportation and safe routes to school, and we look forward to continuing as a community partner in this effort.

MST has reviewed **Item #25-511 regarding the Harden Parkway Path and Safe Routes to School Project**, and would like to submit the following comments for your consideration:

We would like to thank City staff and the consulting team for meeting with MST staff on October 7th to introduce the project and listen to our direct input, as the proposed plans will affect existing bus stops. Additionally, MST Planning and Safety staff attended the Harden Parkway & Safe Routes to School Project Community Feedback meeting on October 30, where we provided further feedback to City staff regarding transit considerations.

MST provides service to eleven (11) bus stops along the Project's corridor, with Lines 41 and 95. Notably, MST's East Harden Ranch Plaza bus stop (Stop ID: 3152) is among the most popular stops in Salinas, with an average of 91 passenger boardings per day.

It is crucial that all improvements are compatible with MST's *Designing for Transit Guidelines (2020)*<sup>1</sup> to ensure safe and convenient transit access. Our agency should continue to be consulted at each phase of the project, including:

- Conceptual design
- Value engineering
- Prior to construction bid documents

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<sup>1</sup> MST's Designing for Transit (2020). <https://mst.org/wp-content/media/DesigningForTransit-2020-Edition.pdf>

Advocating and delivering quality public transportation as a leader within our community and industry.

**Transit District Members** Monterey County • Carmel-by-the-Sea • Del Rey Oaks • Gonzales • Greenfield • King City • Marina • Monterey  
Pacific Grove • Salinas • Sand City • Seaside • Soledad **Administrative Offices** 19 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 200 Monterey, CA 93940

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Key Designing for Transit Guidelines include the following:

- Road width reduction/ Road Diets are a common traffic calming strategy used to slow down traffic. Transit buses have a width of 10ft 7in (including side mirrors), and therefore, a minimum lane width of 11ft is required where transit is operating. If 10-foot (or less) lanes are provided, a transit bus may encroach on other lanes, which increases the risk of collision.
- Bus stop relocation or upgrades must comply with ADA guidelines.
- Roundabouts and pedestrian bulb-outs must meet bus turning dimensions referenced in the *Technical Reference Chapter* of *MST's Designing for Transit Guidelines*. Bus stops slated to be near roundabouts should be consistent with mid-block as the preferred/ideal safe location. While typically far-side is our preferred choice for bus stops, roundabouts pose a unique challenge for transit operations. Near-side and far-side bus stops at roundabout intersections pose a hazard to buses maneuvering in or out into the flow of traffic. Additionally, pedestrian/passenger hazards are created when the bus stops near crosswalk areas because of the size of the bus becoming a large opaque obstacle. Near-side bus stops would be our second preference if mid-block is not available, granted the bus stop is set back 20' from crosswalks to comply with AB 413.

MST appreciates the City's commitment to improving safety and mobility in Salinas and welcomes continued collaboration as these projects move forward. If you have any questions about the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [movermeyer@mst.org](mailto:movermeyer@mst.org) or 831-264-5877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Overmeyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Overmeyer  
Director of Planning and Innovation

CC: Council Member Tony Barrera