

Transportation Research Board Future Interstates Committee Regional Planning Panel

February 23, 2017

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AMBAG



Overview

- AMBAG Overview
- Regional & Interregional Coordination
- Interstate Connectivity
- Adaptation/Resiliency
- Funding
- Challenges & Opportunities



What is AMBAG?

- Metropolitan Planning Organization for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties.
- Regional organization that develops studies, plans, and policy recommendations related to transportation, housing and sustainability.
- Regional collaboration and coordination on a number of issues: economic, ecological, sustainability, transportation, health and housing.



Planning & Regional Collaboration

- Develops long range plans.
- Programs transportation funding.
- Maintains regional travel demand model.
- Not an implementing agency
 - Coordinate with RTPAs & transit operators



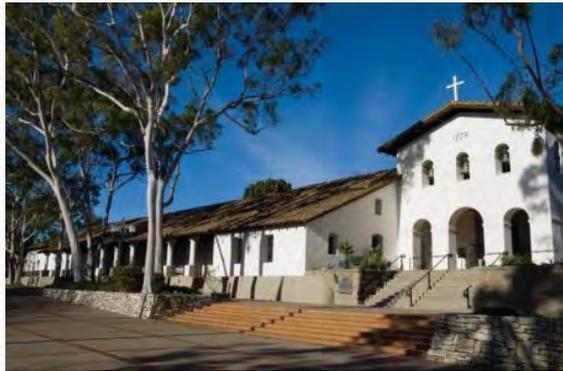
Central Coast Coalition

- Santa Cruz
- San Benito
- Monterey
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara



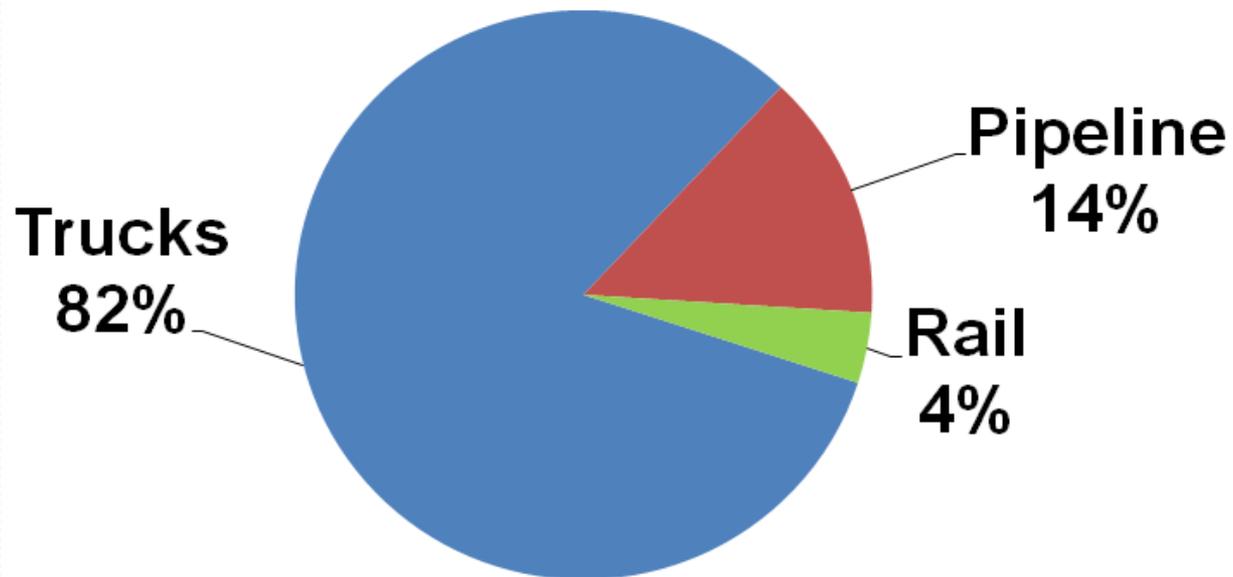
Interstate Connectivity Is Critical

- Major industries: agriculture & tourism
 - 1.5 million population
 - \$7 billion agricultural production
 - \$5.5 billion tourism industry
 - 130,000 students - 14 colleges & universities
 - 25,000 military staff - 6 military bases



Freight Transport

- 63 million tons of freight, worth \$50 billion, transported into, out of, and within the Central Coast region



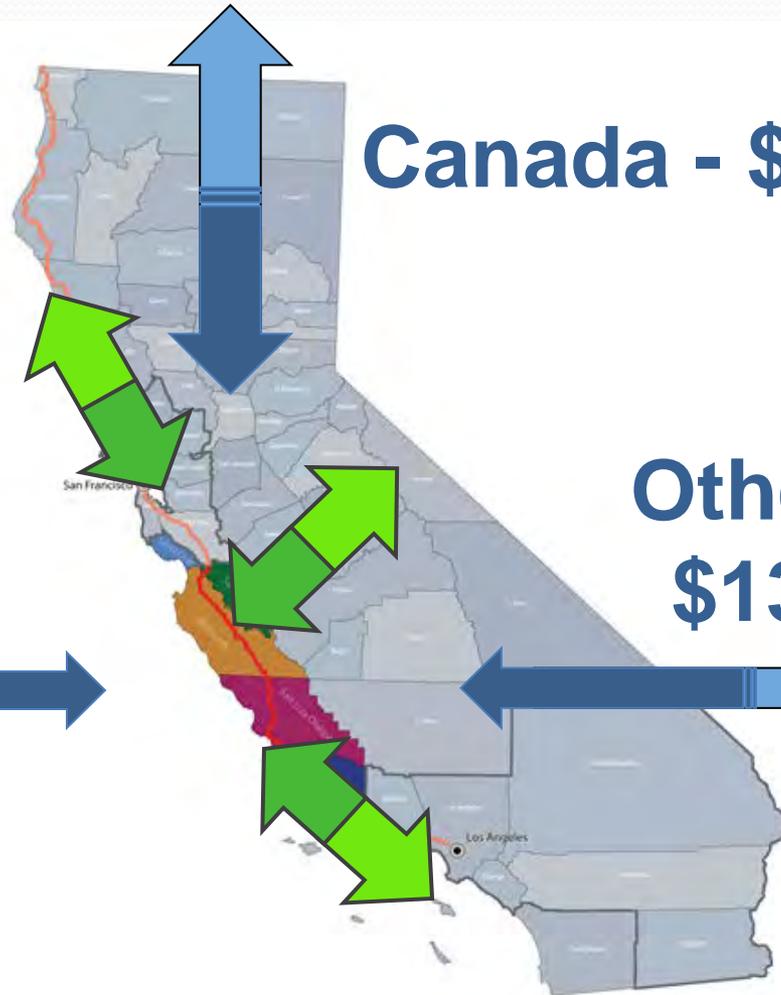
Where Is It Going?

California
\$25 Billion

Canada - \$1.2B

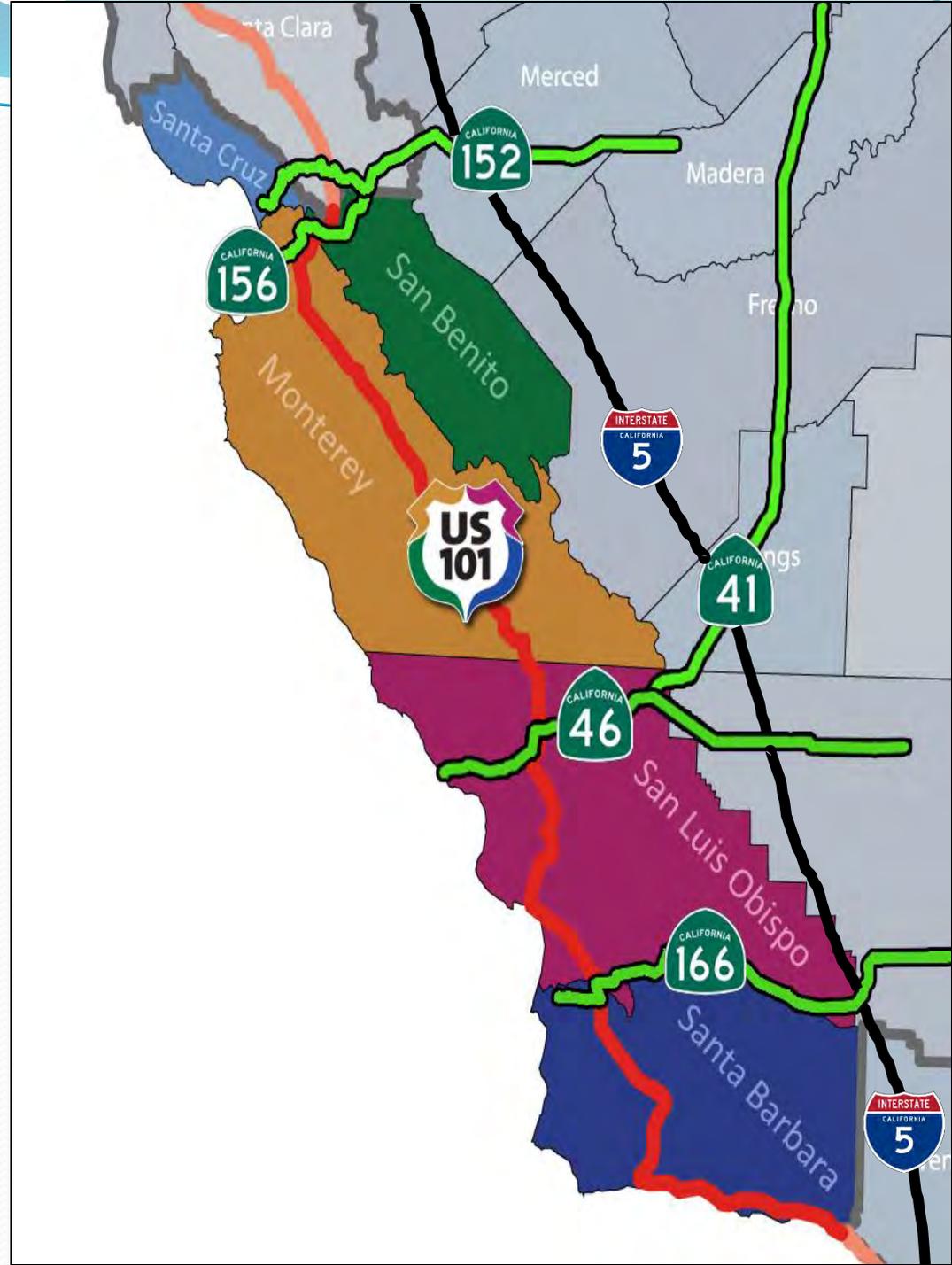
Other States
\$13 Billion

Asia \$1.1B



Central Coast Mobility

- Major Routes - U.S. 101 & East/West Connectors to Interstate 5



Rural vs. Urban Areas

- Our highways are congested and struggling to meet growing demands.
- Environmental concerns restrict many transportation projects.
- Large number of residents work in Bay Area.
- Creates a planning challenge.
- Housing affordability in our region is a problem.



Mitigation & Resiliency Planning

- How to do this in a rapidly changing environment?
- Recent and ongoing efforts
 - Pajaro River Watershed Flood Protection
 - Pacific Coast Highway – Elkhorn Slough Natural Infrastructure Pilot
 - Wildlife Corridor Planning



Funding

- Very little funding available to make transportation improvements.
- Difficult to compete with more urban areas for competitive funding programs.
- Although local sales tax measures help, do not have the capacity to raise enough to fund major transformative projects.



Challenges & Opportunities

- Connectivity to the interstates is essential for the Central Coast.
- Freight is critical to our region and funding is essential to make it work.
- Ongoing coordination with other regions is essential and beneficial to economic survival.
- Adaptation to constantly changing environmental conditions critical.





Questions??



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