

Successes in Recent Years

The City of Chico has made key strides implementing active transportation projects in recent years. The City successfully applied and was granted funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) 2021 to complete the Chico ATP. The foresight to develop the Chico ATP prepares the City to be successful in pursuit of competitive grant funding, especially from grantors that prioritize and emphasize active transportation. In addition, the ATP will be a guiding document for the City to enable policies that support and leverage existing capital improvement programs to implement active transportation projects sooner and more efficiently.

This chapter discusses active transportation infrastructure projects which the City completed since the adoption of the Chico Bicycle Plan 2019.

Recent Projects

The City has completed, or will soon complete, six projects implementing active transportation infrastructure improvements:

- ◆ Comanche Creek Greenway
- ◆ Park Avenue and 12th Street Road Rehabilitation
- ◆ Humboldt Road/20th Street Bike/Ped Bridge
- ◆ Airport Bike Path Bridge
- ◆ Cohasset Road Widening
- ◆ Esplanade Corridor Safety and Accessibility Improvement Project

COMANCHE CREEK GREENWAY

The project location is in the southwest area of the City of Chico, south of Myers Street and north of Otterson Drive, between Midway and Estes Road. The project extends the Comanche

Creek Greenway network, improves access to existing bicycle facilities in Southwest Chico, and supports transportation and recreation. The project includes a Class I multi-use path, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Comanche Creek, bike racks, wayfinding signs, kiosks, and other greenway amenities. Most of the Comanche Creek Greenway is complete between Midway Road and Meyers Street (approximately 0.65 miles), while a segment from Meyers Street to Estes Road (approximately 0.25 miles) remains to be developed. In 2016, the City received a \$1.0 million US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant for Phase 1, and in 2018, \$1.5 million was awarded to the City from the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant. These two funding sources significantly contributed to the construction of the recent extension of the Comanche Creek Greenway.



Entrance of the Comanche Creek Greenway Sterling Junction access point near the intersection of Midway Road and Hegan Lane. Source: Google Street View

PARK AVENUE AND 12TH STREET ROAD REHABILITATION

The City of Chico included Park Avenue and 12th Street Road improvements as part of the 2021



Annual Street Maintenance Project. The limits for Park Avenue include 9th Street to East Park Avenue for approximately 1.4 miles, and on 12th Street from Park Avenue to Mulberry Street for approximately 0.2 miles. The project leverages planned road improvements, allowing the City to include the addition of bikeways and pedestrian improvements as part of their annually scheduled maintenance programs. This approach is an example of “low-hanging fruit,” and quickly accomplishes complete street results without requiring outside funding. Active transportation elements include Class II bicycle lanes, enhanced crosswalks, and ADA-compliant curb ramps.



Park Avenue and recent improvements between 9th Street and East Park Avenue. Source: Google Street View

HUMBOLDT ROAD/20TH STREET BIKE/PED BRIDGE

The project, completed in 2022, includes a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Little Chico Creek and creates a connection between Humboldt Avenue and the Bikeway 99 undercrossing under SR 99. The project also added a new Class I multi-use path section including lighting that connect to the existing

ESPLANADE CORRIDOR SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Anticipated to begin construction in 2024, the Esplanade Corridor Safety and Accessibility Improvement Project includes several complete streets improvements along the Esplanade corridor between Memorial Way and 11th Avenue, as well as on Oleander Avenue from

Class I multi-use path adjacent to Community Park at East 20th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, as well as Chapman Elementary School. The bridge and path improve active transportation connectivity in Chico's neighborhoods towards the south part of the City and to major bikeways including Bikeway 99 and the Chico Bike Path.

AIRPORT BIKE PATH BRIDGE

This project was completed in early 2022 and replaces an existing bridge along the Airport Bike Path that was previously damaged. The location of the new bridge runs along the Airport Bike Path, a former railroad line, between East Lassen Avenue and Burnap Avenue over the Pleasant Valley Ditch. The new bridge is 31 feet long and 14 feet wide. The bridge replacement project was a high-priority City effort to re-establish access on the well-travelled active transportation route.

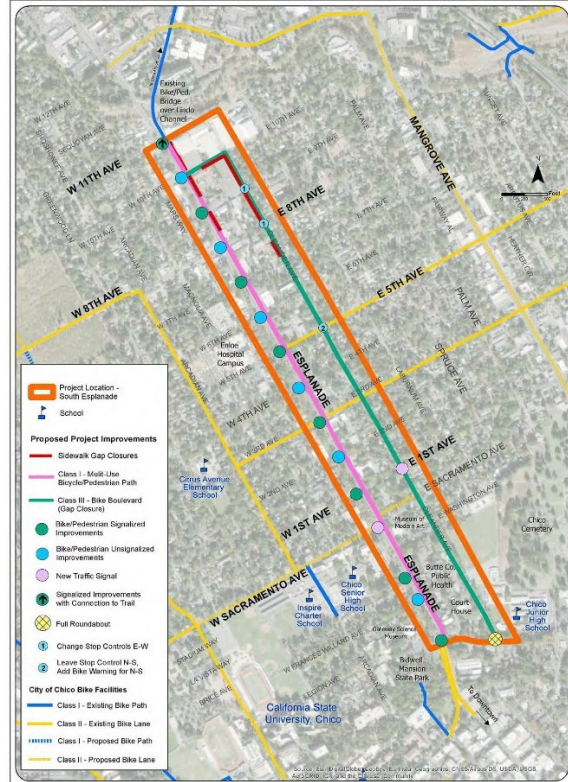
COHASSET ROAD WIDENING

Completed in late 2022, The Cohasset Road Widening project includes repaving and enhancements to an existing Class I multi-use path on the west side of Cohasset Road that extends north from Eaton Road to the Chico Municipal Airport for approximately two miles. The path is separated by a shallow drainage ditch and landscaping, including shade trees and shrubs, enhancing the overall benefit of the dedicated bicycle facility. Improvements were completed as part of Phase Three of the Cohasset Road Widening Project that received grant funding from the US Economic Development Administration.

Memorial Way to 10th Avenue. The project leverages Caltrans Active Transportation Program funds and seeks to “enhance mobility, connectivity, safety, and accessibility for roadway users of all ages and abilities,” creating a Class I multi-use path along Esplanade, providing critical connections to downtown, CSU Chico, Chico Junior School, Chico High School,



a regional hospital, adjacent neighborhoods, and existing active transportation facilities, like the Class I Airport Multi-Use Path at 11th Avenue.



Esplanade Corridor Safety and Accessibility Improvement Project map

