



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**City of Chico Partners with Caltrans to Construct Bicycle Bridge Over 20th Street,  
Construction to Begin the Week of March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**CHICO, CA – (March 25, 2024)** - The City of Chico in collaboration with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is completing the 5th and final phase of Bikeway 99, a multi-year bicycle path that completes a path for bicycle transportation across Chico and transforms alternative transportation options within the city.

This is the final phase of the project which started in 2016 and will be complete at the end of 2025. Once completed, the proposed bikeway bridge over crossing is poised to serve as a pivotal link between both sides of East 20th Street and Business Lane, granting access to local eateries, businesses, the Butte College Chico Center, and amenities, including the Chico Mall. By providing a designated route separate from vehicular congestion on East 20th Street, the bikeway will significantly enhance the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists alike.

Additionally, the bridge will complete the Bikeway 99 Corridor, which will link Eaton Road to Skyway, span a distance of nearly 7 miles, and serve as a vital route for both transportation and recreational purposes.

The \$23.8 million project received funding from a variety of different sources including: \$5.6 million from local funds including Bikeway Improvement funds, Streets and Road funds, and Transportation funds; \$5.8 million from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds; and **\$12.4 million in funding from the Active Transportation Program (ATP)**. The ATP was created by Senate Bill 99 to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking. ATP funds are issued through the California Transportation Commission.

“The 20th St Bridge project was funded because it clearly meets the goals of the ATP, which include; Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction goals, enhance public health, ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program. We are so excited to see the completion of Bikeway 99 in Chico,” said Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director at the California Transportation Commission.

As the City of Chico continues to prioritize sustainability, connectivity, and community well-being, this transformative project stands as a testament to its commitment to innovation and progress. With construction slated to commence on March 27<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, residents and stakeholders alike can look forward to a future defined by enhanced mobility, safety, and accessibility for all.

“The current absence of a safe and direct pedestrian/bike path poses significant challenges for residents and discourages walking or biking to local schools, job centers, commercial areas, and public services,” said Brendan Ottoboni, director of Public Works for the City of Chico. “Recognizing Bikeway 99 is a critical need, the City of Chico is committed to bridging the gap and fostering a more sustainable, inclusive community.”

The bikeway will be outfitted with vegetation management measures to optimize and deter potential hazards. Furthermore, the ramp structure will incorporate innovative features such as fencing and physical barriers to discourage graffiti and loitering, ensuring a pristine and secure environment for all users.

“Caltrans is pleased to support the City of Chico’s proposed pedestrian overcrossing and class 1 multiuse trail project at the 20<sup>th</sup> Street northbound on/off ramps that will provide a continuous path of travel for bicyclists and pedestrians to Bidwell Park and surrounding areas” said Sergio Aceves, Director of Caltrans District 3.

“Safety remains paramount in the design and execution of this project,” said Aceves.

Central to the project is a commitment to preserving and celebrating the rich history, culture, and unique charm of Chico. The design of the Bikeway 99 bridge, selected through an extensive public outreach effort, will seamlessly integrate with the city's distinctive atmosphere, serving as a testament to its vibrant cyclist-friendly character.

During construction, local access within the project zone will be subject to traffic controls, temporary delays, detours, and occasional closures to accommodate construction crews and equipment. Some nighttime work will also occur intermittently. Drivers are encouraged to build extra time into their schedules or, if possible, plan alternate routes to avoid the project area. The completion of the project is anticipated by the Fall of 2025.

For more information and updates on the Bikeway 99 Corridor project, please visit <https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/SR-99-Corridor-Bikeway-Facility-Phase-5/index.html>.

*Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home*

*of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us).*

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