



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2024

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

Groundbreaking Ceremony to Celebrate Largest Infrastructure Project in Chico's History / Notice of Upcoming Road Closures

(Chico CA – April 15, 2024) – The City of Chico is excited to announce the commencement of the highly anticipated Bruce Road Reconstruction Project, awarded to local contractor Knife River Construction after a rigorous bidding process. This monumental endeavor marks a significant leap forward in the city's infrastructure development.

Spanning approximately 2 miles from Highway 32 to Skyway in southwest Chico, the project is set to revitalize Bruce Road, transforming it from a two-lane arterial roadway into a modern, four-lane thoroughfare by utilizing roller-compacted concrete pavement for enhanced durability and longevity. Central to the project is the replacement of the existing two-lane bridge over Little Chico Creek, making way for a state-of-the-art structure capable of accommodating increased traffic flow and pedestrian accessibility.

The project's scope extends beyond mere expansion, incorporating Complete Streets principles to ensure inclusivity and safety for all road users. Highlights include the addition of dedicated bike lanes, shared bicycle/pedestrian walkways, and landscaped medians, enhancing both functionality and aesthetics. Moreover, storm drain improvements and sewer system upgrades will further bolster the area's resilience and longevity.

Funded by a \$22 million Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, alongside Measure H and other local funds, this project represents a significant investment in Chico's transportation infrastructure.

A groundbreaking ceremony, complete with hard hats and golden shovels, is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The event will be held at the northwest corner of Bruce Road and Humboldt Road on vacant City-owned property. Attendees are advised to exercise caution due to gravel surfaces and uneven terrain at the site. Parking will be available along Humboldt Road.

Speakers at the event include Mayor Andrew Coolidge, City of Chico Director of Public Works – Engineering Brendan Ottoboni, and Assemblyman James Gallagher's representative.

As construction commences April 22, 2024, the public is advised to expect temporary delays, detours, and complete road closures at various stages within the project area. The first phase of construction will require full road closures at two key sections of the project:

- Bruce Road immediately south of East 20th Street to approximately 100 yards north of the Skyway
- Bruce Road south of Banner Peak Drive to north of Concord Ave/Picholine Way

While public access will be maintained at key intersections, motorists are advised to seek alternative routes and plan additional travel time to navigate marked detours during construction.

The City of Chico recognizes the inconvenience posed by construction activities but assures residents that the long-term benefits of the Bruce Road Reconstruction Project will outweigh temporary disruptions. With an estimated completion timeline of 15-18 months, the city eagerly anticipates the unveiling of this transformative infrastructure project in late 2025.

For more information regarding the Bruce Road Reconstruction Project, please visit: <https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/Bruce-Road-Reconstruction-Project/index.html>

For media inquiries, please contact Brendan Ottoboni, Director of Public Works – Engineering at Brendan.Ottoboni@chicoca.gov or 530-879-6901.

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Attachments:

- Map of Stage 1 Traffic Closures
- Bruce Road Typical Section Drawing
- Digital Renderings of Completed Project

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.