



NEWS RELEASE
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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

COHASSET ROAD WIDENING RECEIVES PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Chico's Largest Grant Funded Project Receives Northern California Recognition

(Chico, CA – August 11, 2023) - The Sacramento Chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA) awarded the City of Chico a *Project of the Year* award for the Cohasset Road Widening project. The City accepted the award along with team members from the design team, Mark Thomas & Company, Inc., and the construction management firm, PSOMAS, at a luncheon on Friday, August 4, 2023 at the Dante Club in Sacramento.

The APWA Awards Program recognizes public works projects that demonstrate excellent management, administration, design, sustainability, construction, and community relations, as well as the strong alliance among the managing agency, designer, contractor, and construction management team who worked together to complete this project.

Brendan Ottoboni, who recently returned to the City in the role of Public Works Director – Engineering, initially worked on the project plans when phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2008 and 2009 and was able to see the project through to the roadway's opening in last month. "It truly takes a village to complete a project of this size and magnitude," said Ottoboni. "This includes residents, city staff, City Council, as well as State and Federal elected officials. I am most proud of this award because it represents the team efforts of so many people over more than a decade. The end result is an amazing facility that will require minimal maintenance for decades to come and support a thriving Chico Regional Airport business district."

The project won in the *Transportation* Category. David Giongco, Deputy Director of Public Works – Engineering, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Chico. Felicia McDowell, Senior Civil Engineer and Project Manager was also in attendance representing the City.

The Cohasset Road Widening project was a transformative endeavor to enhance transportation infrastructure and support economic development in the City of Chico. Spanning approximately 2.3 miles, this project converted a two-lane road with a history of severe vehicle accidents into a four-lane thoroughfare, addressing the growing congestion and connectivity challenges faced by businesses, residents, and the wider community.

The construction encompassed the section of Cohasset Road between the Sycamore Creek Bridge at the southern boundary and Ryan Avenue at the project's northern extent. Since completion, the road

now consists of four 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders. Street lighting, right and left turn pockets, and enhanced storm drainage improvements were also installed at intersections to improve traffic flow and safety.

In addition to roadway improvements, the project relocated the existing Class 1 bike trail approximately 10 feet west of its current location. This relocation allowed for a wider bike path, as well as irrigation and landscape improvements. Since this section of the bike path is connected to the City's extensive existing bicycle network, employment centers at the airport are safely accessible by bicycle commuters from area residential neighborhoods.

For more information on the Cohasset Road Widening project, visit <https://chico.ca.us/cohasset-road-widening>. For more information on the APWA award, visit <https://www.apwa.org/award/public-works-project-of-the-year-award/>.

For additional questions, please contact Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works Director - Engineering at (530) 879-6901 or brendan.ottoboni@chico.ca.gov.

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.

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