



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

CONSTRUCTION DELAYED FOR START OF THE LARGEST CAPITAL PROJECT EVER DELIVERED FOR THE CITY OF CHICO

CHICO, CA — (May 19, 2023) — The Bruce Road Widening Project has been envisioned for nearly 3 decades to build the infrastructure necessary to support development in the southeast part of Chico.

“This project will improve one of Chico’s most critical corridors to address existing conditions that have deteriorated over decades, as well as provide proper transportation enhancements to accommodate ongoing and future development demands for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. This project will be more than double the largest City capital project in our history.” said Brendan Ottoboni, Director of Public Works – Engineering.

The scope of work involves widening the roadway to 4-lanes between State Route 32 and Skyway using a concrete roadway material application. The project also includes widening and raising of the bridge over Little Chico Creek, landscaped medians with lighting and a 12’ wide separated bike path along the western side of the corridor to provide a connected multi-modal path between the existing and future educational, commercial and residential land uses.

The timeline on the project is as follows:

In 2016, City of Chico Engineering staff embarked on the design and environmental phases of the project. Then, in 2020, the environmental document was certified and regulatory permitting began. Following that, in December 2022, the City staff received all permits necessary to construct the project and move forward with final design and advertisement for construction. The Engineer’s Estimate of costs for this project was \$25.5 million. This estimate, for the construction contract only, did not include additional funding to cover the construction contingencies such as unanticipated contract change orders, design, environmental, right-of-way, construction management and materials testing needs associated with the project. In total, the project costs are estimated to be approximately \$31 Million.

The source of the funding to cover the project came in 2020, when the City received \$24 million through the Infill Infrastructure Grant administered from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The balance of project funding

comes from local sources for transportation projects including development impact fees, State allocated transportation funds and gas tax revenues.

On May 4th, 2023, City staff closed the construction bidding after it received 3 bids. The bids received were \$26.2 Million, \$30.5 Million and \$31.5 Million respectively. Due to the higher costs of bids received, the City does not have adequate funding to award a construction contract at this time. Therefore, City staff will not be awarding this project contract and will delay a rebid to later this fall or early winter.

If a bid that meets the budget for the project is received, it would allow for construction on the Bruce Road Widening Project to begin in Spring 2024. In the industry, bidding projects in the early winter is a best practice as contractors bidding the work are looking to secure their baseline work load for the following year, typically resulting in more aggressive bidding, therefore achieving lower bid prices.

“While we as staff were excited to begin construction on this project in 2023, we will re-engage in the construction contract advertisement later this year and hopefully be able to break ground on this critical infrastructure project in the Spring of 2024.” said Brendan Ottoboni, Director of Public Works – Engineering.

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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