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City of Chico
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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROVES CITY OF CHICO GRANT FOR BRUCE ROAD EXPANSION PROJECT

(Chico, CA – June 26, 2020 –) The California Department of Housing and Community Development has approved the City of Chico’s \$22 million Infill-Infrastructure grant for Bruce Road. This successful endeavor spearheaded by City leadership and Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) is expected to trigger construction of 1,305 single family homes, which includes a minimum of 260 affordable housing units.

The project will complete a four-lane route with a center median from Skyway to State Route 32. Construction will begin in 2021.

“This award represents a monumental and collaborative effort in wake of one of the most historic disasters in history,” said City of Chico Public Works – Engineering Director Brendan Ottoboni. “This investment will provide much needed and expedited delivery of housing and development opportunities in our region, while also providing a transformative project for all modes of transportation. The Bruce Road corridor will provide a quality of life that our community deserves, and I believe we will look back on this time in the future, showcasing our community’s resilience and togetherness through one of the most difficult times in our history.”

“City staff continues to fervently seek grant funding opportunities to enhance and improve our citizen’s quality of life,” said City of Chico City Manager Mark Orme. “This is yet another great example of a successful team working together to fulfill our responsibility of stewarding and leveraging public funds well.”

“Our talented team of employees within the Public Works department worked tirelessly in their pursuit of and application for this grant,” said City of Chico Mayor Ann Schwab. “The Bruce Road Project will benefit our community on so many levels, including facilitating affordable housing development, and the construction of the Project will provide well-paying public sector jobs to the Chico area as well.”

The funding for the Bruce Road project became available last year after the Legislature approved a \$90 million budget allocation to fund infrastructure projects in rural counties that stimulate the development of new housing. Gallagher secured support for the project from Governor Gavin

Newsom and a variety of local stakeholder groups in education, housing, medical, business, service providers, realtors, and other industries.

“This is a huge win on so many levels. We know that increasing the housing supply will help solve the county’s housing crisis. And with this Bruce Road expansion getting funded, planned housing developments can move forward on a faster timeline,” said Gallagher.

The project includes center medians with trees, landscaping, and architectural lighting, and also the construction of a 12-foot Class 1 bicycle path on the west side of the roadway. Bridge widening over Little Chico Creek will include raising the bridge approximately 3’ in height to accommodate high water elevations, as well as widening from 2-lanes to 4-lanes. The project also entails the construction of a half-mile stretch of roadway into the Miriam Park Project in order to reduce the development cost of an affordable housing project within the development.

The process of successfully applying for this grant would not have been possible without the extraordinary teamwork exhibited by City of Chico staff, as well as the proactive support of Assemblyman James Gallagher and numerous other state agencies. The City of Chico would like to thank everyone involved for their effort and dedication in seeing this grant application process succeed.

For more information, please contact Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works - Engineering Director, at (530) 879-6901 or Lynda Gizzi, Public Information Officer, at (530) 896-7204.

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