

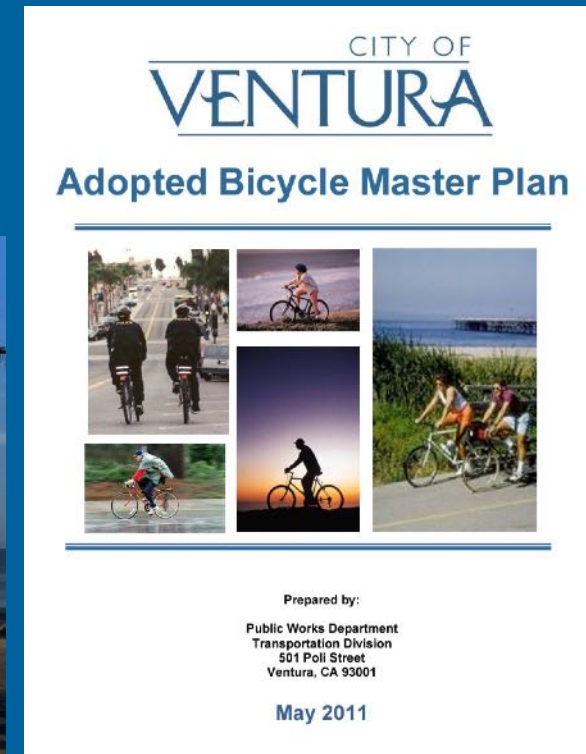


Ventura's Active Transportation Journey

Paving the Way to a Healthier, More Vibrant Community

ITE Central Coast Section Meeting – December 17, 2024

- Prior to 2000 emphasis was on moving vehicles through City of Ventura.
- 2005 General Plan – Policy to "Reduce Dependence on Automobile"
- 2011 Bicycle Master Plan
- 2023 Active Transportation Plan....Adopted by Council December 2023.



Why Plan for Active Transportation?

- Create a roadmap for future programs and projects to update 2011 Bicycle Master Plan
- Caltrans adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2017

“By 2040 people in California of all ages, abilities, and incomes can safely, conveniently, and comfortably walk and bicycle for their transportation needs”.
- Since 2013 Caltrans has awarded over \$1.6 billion in funding for active transportation projects.
- City of Ventura has been awarded over \$10 million!



Completed Projects, Projects in Process, and Projects Just Starting

- Active Transportation plan
- Bike Education
- Telephone Road – Roadway Repurposing
- Montalvo Safe Routes to School
- Harmon Barranca Corridor Gap Closure
- Ventura River Trail Upgrades
- Cabrillo Village Bike Path
- New Sidewalk - Saticoy and Nopalito
- Santa Paula Branchline Rails with Trails
- Sidewalk/ADA Improvement Project



Envision a Future of Safe, Sustainable Transportation



Imagine a city where walking, biking, and public transit are not only safe but also the first choice for getting around.

Active Transportation Plan

A comprehensive vision for enhancing pedestrian, bicycle, & transit connectivity



[1 About the Active Transportation...](#) [2 Vision and Goals](#) [3 Taking Action](#) [Projects](#) [High Priority Projects](#) [Programs & Policies](#) [4 Ventura Today](#)

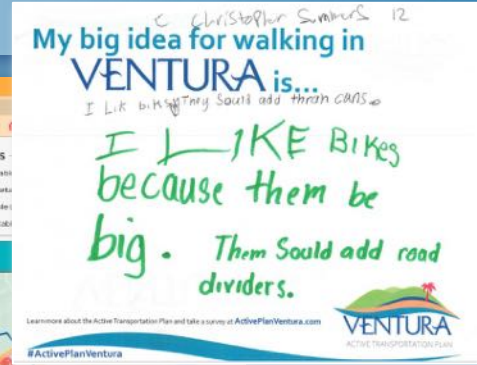
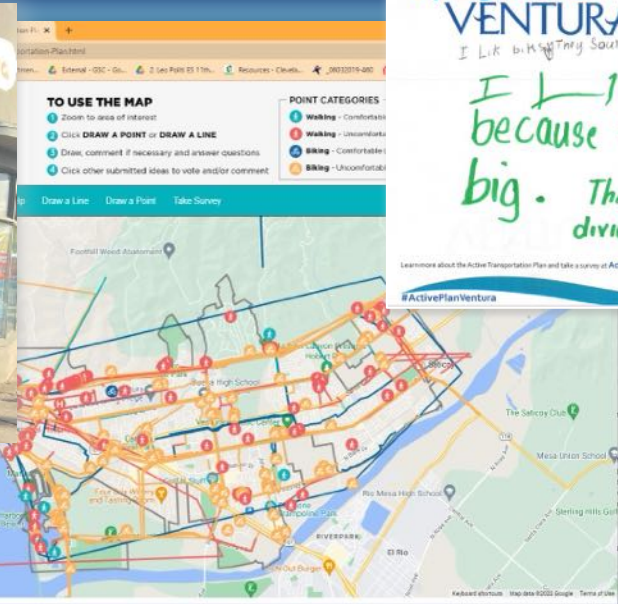
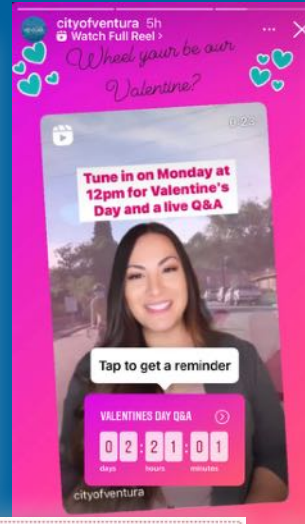
1 About the Active Transportation Plan

The Ventura Active Transportation Plan creates a roadmap with priority projects and programs to make walking, bicycling, and taking transit great choices for all people who live in, work in, or visit Ventura.

- General Plan – Policy to "Reduce Dependence on Automobile"
- VMT Reduction Goal
- Climate Action Plan Alignment



Engagement Highlights

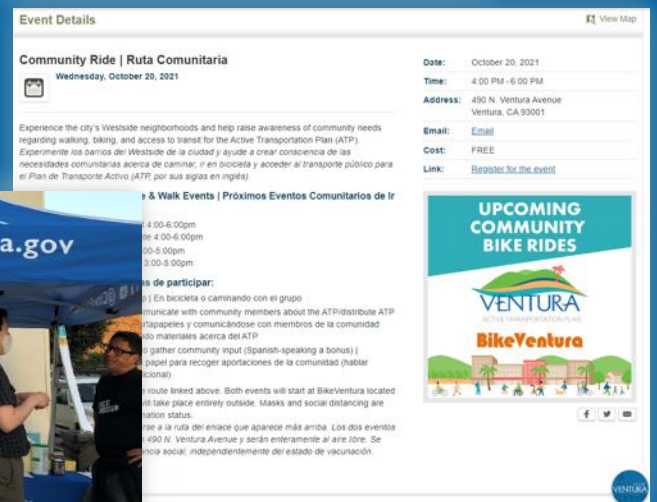
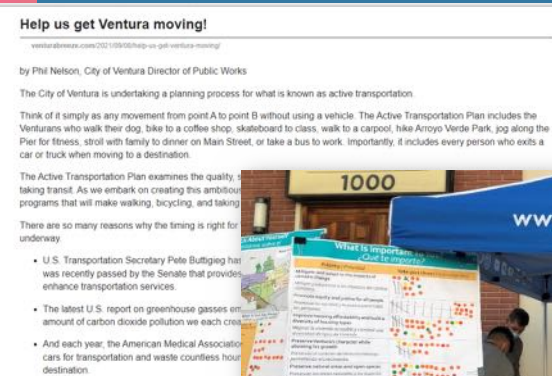


Gradients of Agreement

Poll ended | 1 question | 12 of 16 (75%) participated

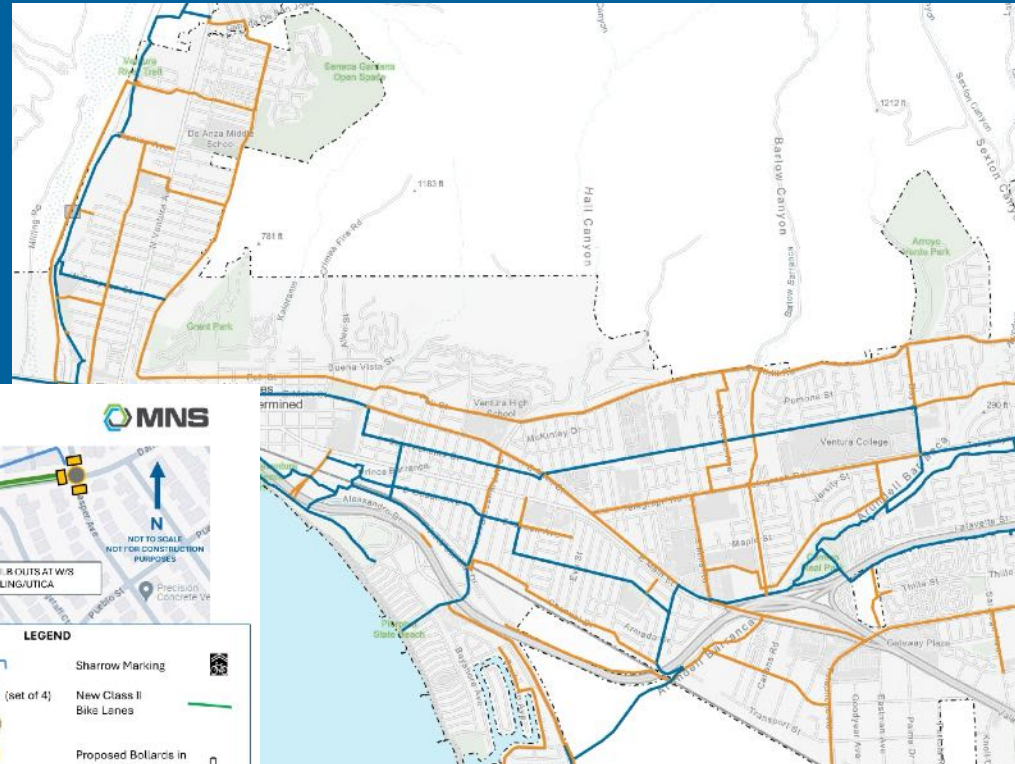
12/12 (100%) answered

Response	Count	Percentage
1 - Whole-hearted endorsement	6	50%
2 - Agreement with a minor point of contention	5	42%
3 - Support with revisions	6	50%
4 - Abstain	0	0%
5 - More discussion needed	1	8%
6 - Don't like but will support	0	0%
7 - Serious disagreement	0	0%
8 - Veto	0	0%



Active Transportation Plan

- All information is on City's website in Public Works-Transportation-Active Transportation Plan ([Active Transportation Plan | Ventura, CA](#))





Create connected
bikeways and
walkways that safely
get you where you want to go.

Things like:



New bikeways



Better crossings



Better sidewalks



New biking/walking trails

Ventura's Active Transportation Plan aims to transform city infrastructure to support active transportation.



Bicycle education complements this transformation by equipping residents with necessary skills.

- Youth Programs
- Adult Education
- Community Events.

Youth Bicycle Education Initiatives

Programs for elementary and middle school students:

- Bike Rodeos: (K-3) Teaching essential bike handling skills
- Bike Education: (4th & 6th) Focus on traffic rules and helmet use.
- Bilingual instructors for inclusivity.



Adult Education for Safe Cycling

- Commuter Safety: How to safely navigate bike lanes.
- Confidence Building: Encouraging new cyclists
- Route Planning: Practical tools for safe commuting.

www.bikeventura.org/events

OTS
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF
TRAFFIC SAFETY

RIDE READY
BICYCLE SKILL CLASS

TRAFFIC SKILLS 101

- One day (4 hour) session
- Proper bike fit
- Basic bike maintenance
- How to safely ride with traffic
- Emergency maneuvers
- Responsibilities on the road
- E-bike rules & ride safety

FREE BIKE SAFETY TRAINING

FREE TREK BIKE RAFFLE

E-Bikes Welcome!

SATURDAY APR 27
9am-1pm

SATURDAY MAY 25
9am-1pm

Location: Trek Ventura
4060 E Main St
Ventura 93003

GO SAFELY CALIFORNIA
SAFETY OFFICE OF VENTURA COUNTY

Trek Ventura
Register early and receive a free Trek water bottle.

Bike Ventura
COUNTY

MORE INFO:
Register NOW!

bikeventura.org/events

A Free & Fun Community Ride

EASY RIDER

Are you an Easy Rider?

These no drop rides are free and open to the public. Rides generally start at the Museum of Ventura County parking lot (100 East Main St.) at 8:30am. Rides are 15 to 25 miles in length with speeds of 10 to 12 mph.

REGISTER NOW!
www.bikeventura.org/events

Bike Ventura Channel Islands Bicycle Club

SATURDAY OCT 19 RIDE

SATURDAY NOV 2 RIDE

SATURDAY NOV 16 RIDE

Please register in advance. We would like at least six participants. If you have questions, please contact: easyrider@bikeventura.org
Register at www.bikeventura.org/events

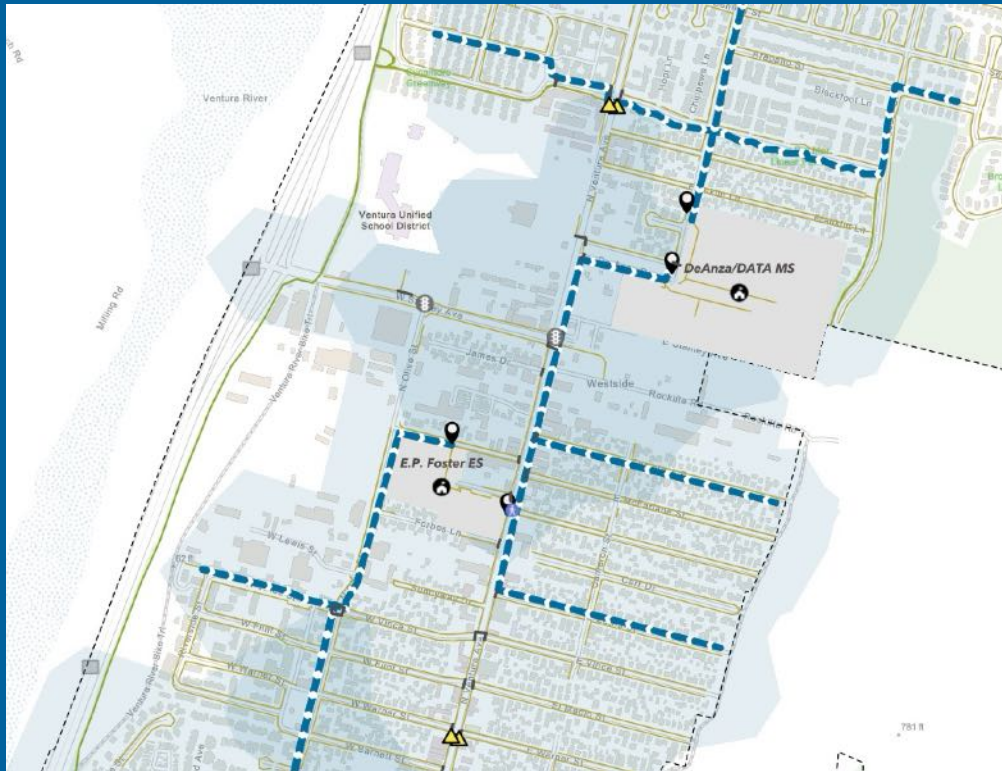
Building Community Through Cycling



Ventura hosts group rides, bike safety demonstrations, and community-building events.

- Collaborations with local organizations like Bike Ventura.
- Building a cycling culture through community events.

Reaching Underserved Communities



Bike education is provided in all Ventura schools, with special outreach to disadvantaged areas.

Aligning Education with Infrastructure Improvements

- Educational programs complement ongoing ATP infrastructure improvements.
- Education prioritizes new bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly features.
- Data-driven approach ensures focus on high-need areas.



Overcoming Obstacles and Building Success

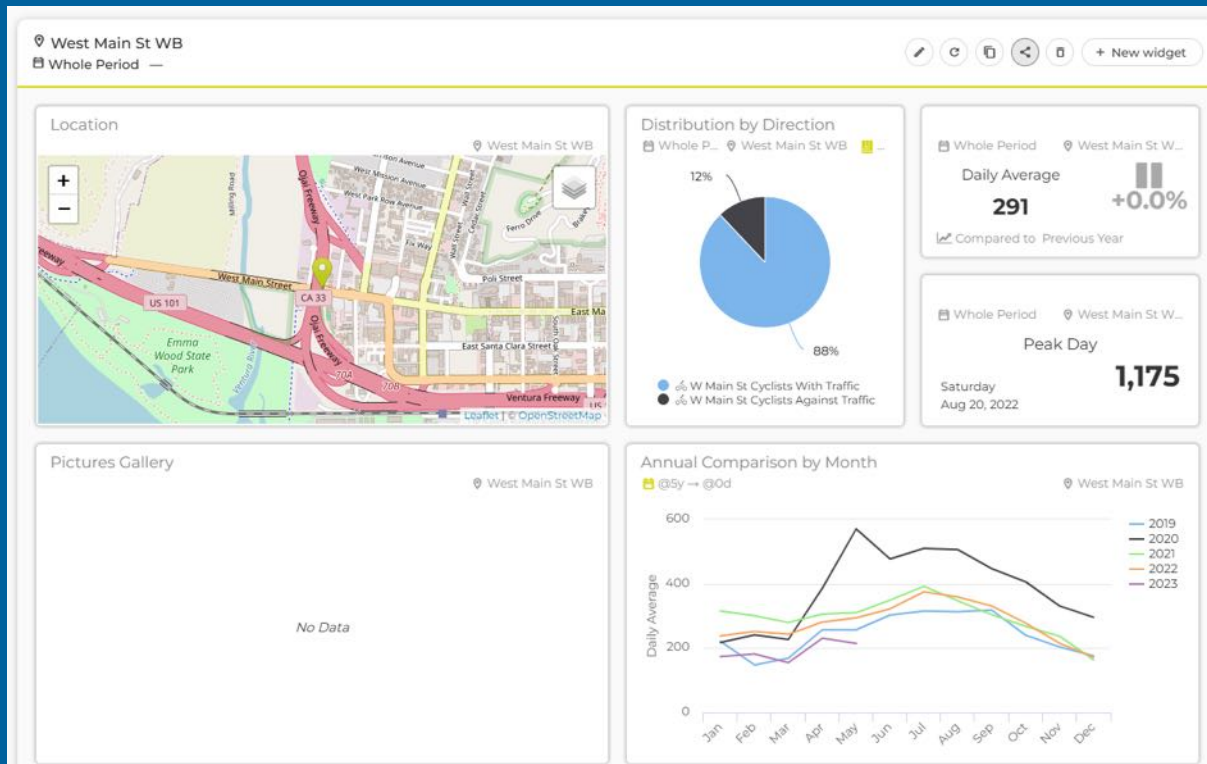


Challenges include funding gaps, staffing limitations, and cultural barriers to cycling.



- Need for sustained outreach and long-term community relationships.
- Importance of adapting curriculum for deeper learning.

Measuring Impact and Ensuring Success



Ventura tracks success through surveys, participation rates, and safety data.

- Data is used to adjust and refine programs.
- Continuous evaluation to ensure long-term impact..

Expanding and Innovating Bicycle Education



- Plans to scale programs in alignment with ATP objectives
- Incorporating new technologies: route planning tools, e-bike training.

Moving Toward a Safer, More Accessible Ventura

- Bicycle education is key to making Ventura's streets safer for everyone.
- Call to action: Support similar programs in your regions.



Telephone Road – Roadway Repurposing



- Key benefits of roadway repurposing:
 - Provides enhanced bike facilities, closes a gap
 - Less travel lanes for pedestrians to cross
 - Reduce travel speeds providing a safer environment
 - Provides greater separation between vehicles and pedestrians
 - Consistent with goals set in City's General Plan and Bicycle Master Plan
 - Promotes healthy lifestyle for residents of Ventura
 - Strategy to reduce greenhouse gases and vehicle miles traveled
 - Provides for social equity

Montalvo Safe Routes to School

Key Components of Project - Funded through Caltrans Active Transportation Program

- New sidewalk along major corridors of Montalvo - 2 miles of continuous sidewalk.
- One mile of new bike lanes.
- 12 new curb ramps and 26 reconstructed curb ramps.
- 27 new pedestrian and bike crossings (two rectangular flashing beacon crossings)
- 24 new street trees
- Curb extensions at key intersections.
- New Montalvo neighborhood community sign.
- 20 temporary construction easements.
-



Credit: VC Star

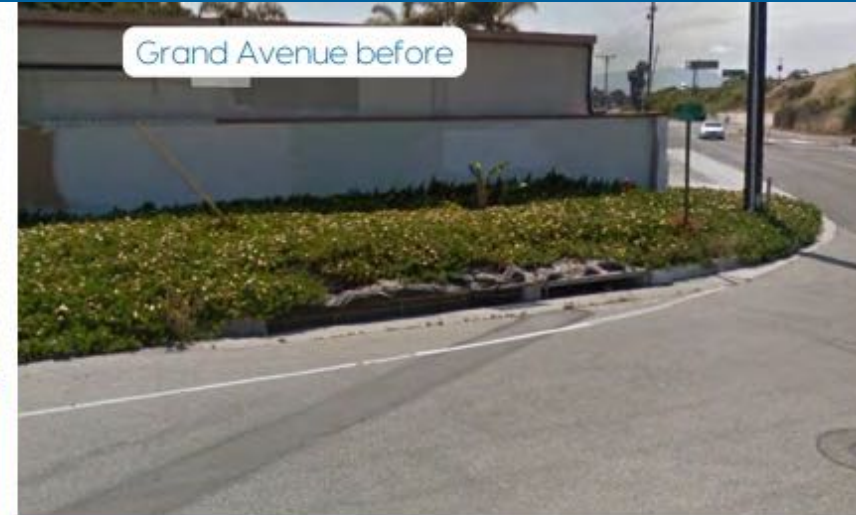
BEFORE VERSUS AFTER



Montalvo Safe Routes to School

Lessons Learned

- Outreach to community should be early and often.
- Door to door interaction with residents is necessary.
- Monitor construction cost throughout project design.
- Listen to community and be flexible.
- Caltrans Local Assistance Engineer is there to help.



Project Ribbon Cutting

APWA PROJECT OF THE YEAR



Councilmember Jim Duran speaks at ribbon cutting



“These improvements have the potential to generate an even more active walking and bicycling community to and from school... helping promote the physical growth and development of our Ventura Unified students. - Dr. Antonio Castro, Superintendent, Ventura Unified School District”



Harmon Barranca Corridor Gap Closure

- ATP Cycle 3
- Construction Cost = \$690k
- Two HAWK signals and one RRFB
- \$250K for each HAWK
- Two-way Cycle Track
- Loss of Parking



Harmon Barranca Corridor Gap Closure



How does the HAWK signal work? High Intensity Activated CrossWalk

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/ActiveTransportation

For Pedestrians

- PUSH THE BUTTON**
- STOP & WAIT**
FOR THE WALK SIGNAL
- START CROSSING**
ALWAYS WATCH FOR CARS
- FINISH CROSSING**

For Drivers

- FLASHING YELLOW**

SLOW DOWN
PEDESTRIAN ACTIVATED BEACON WITH CROSSWALK PUSH BUTTON
- SOLID YELLOW**

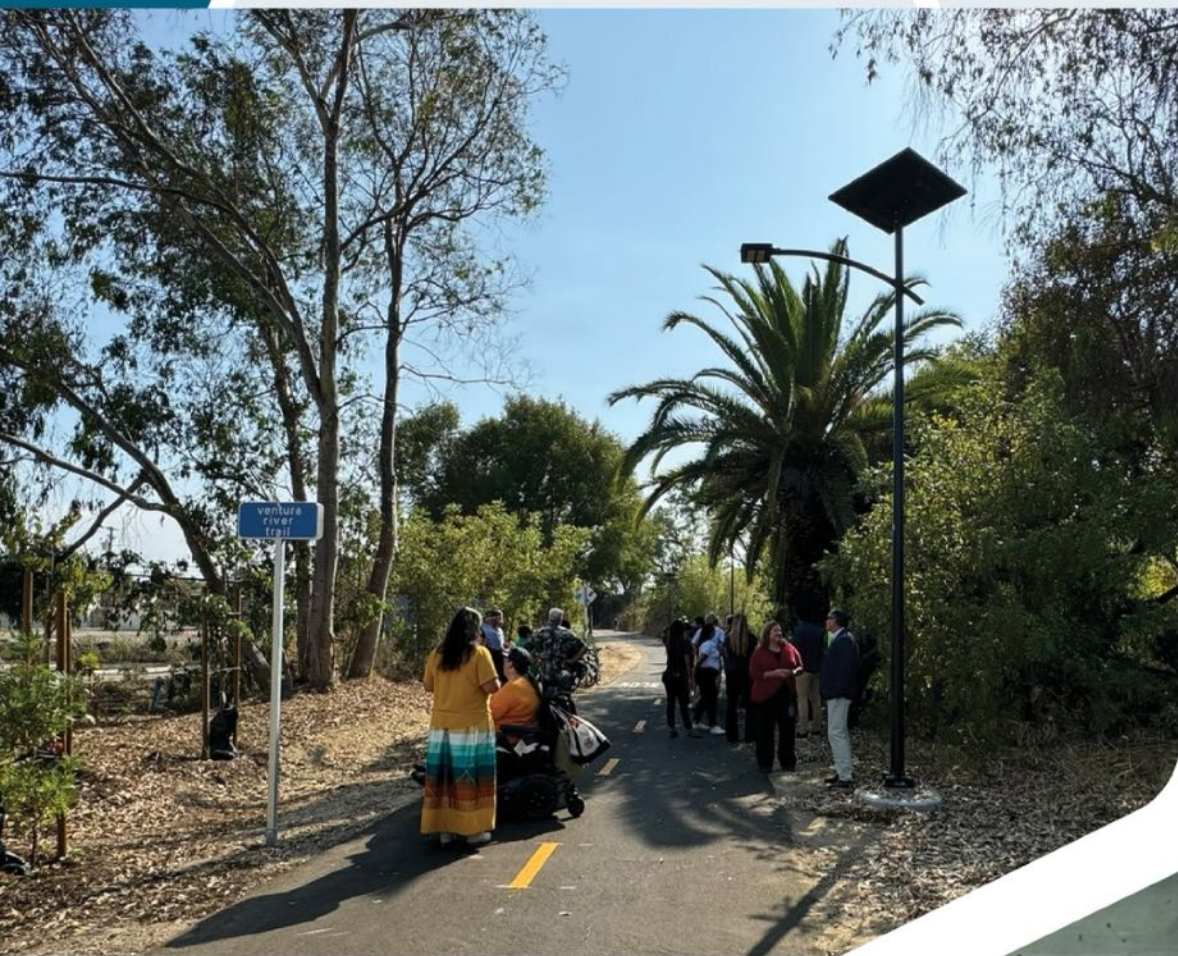
PREPARE TO STOP
PEDESTRIAN WAITING FOR WALK SIGNAL
- SOLID RED**

STOP
PEDESTRIAN IS CROSSING
- FLASHING RED**

AFTER STOPPING
PROCEED WITH CAUTION ONLY IF THE CROSSWALK IS CLEAR
- DARK**

PROCEED WITH CAUTION
BEACON STAYS DARK UNTIL ACTIVATED BY ANOTHER PEDESTRIAN



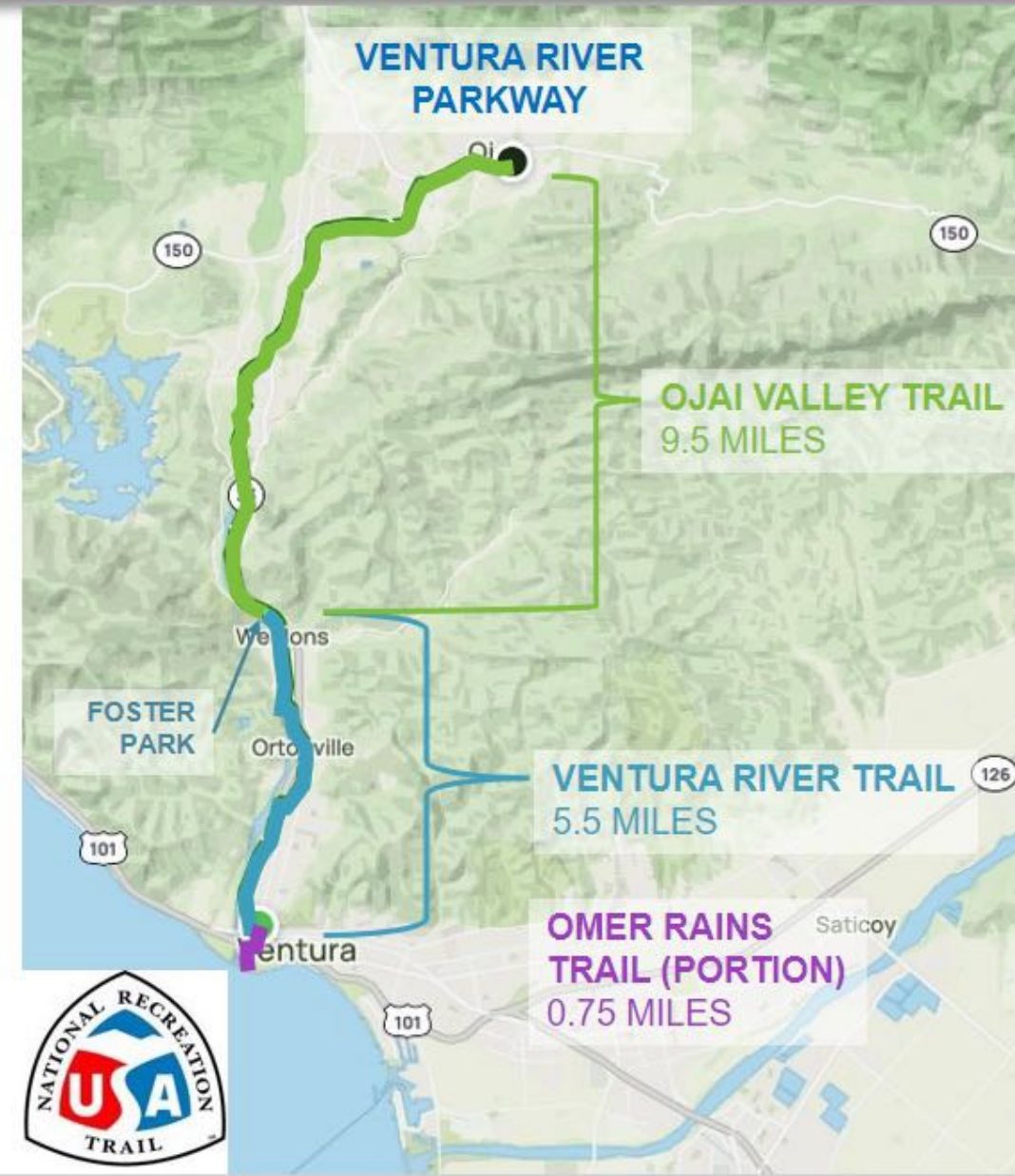


City of Ventura, Ventura River Trail Improvements Project, Ventura, CA



Ventura River Trail

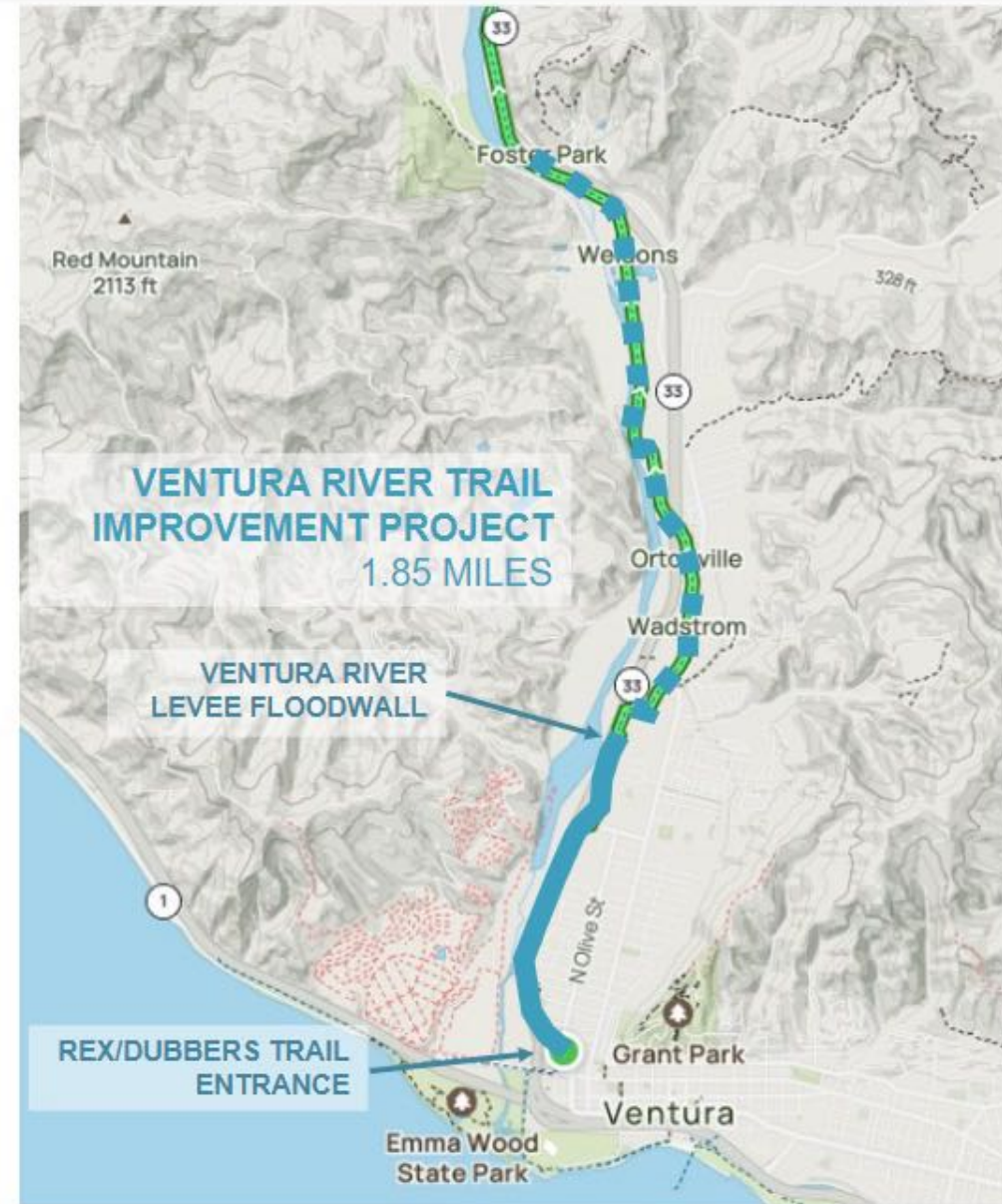
- **1890s:** Ventura & Ojai Valley Railroad was constructed, mainly transporting citrus and other agriculture
- **Mid -1990s:** Ventura portion of the railroad was abandoned
- **1999:** Ventura's railway was converted into a trail and opened to the public
- **1999 - Present:** No major improvements or renovations (minimal maintenance only)
- **2014:** Designated National Recreation Trail
 - 16.5-mile Ventura River Parkway includes **Ventura River Trail** + Ojai Valley Trail + Omer Rains Trail (portion)





Project Overview

- **Clean California Local Grant Program**
 - \$4,999,188 grant award
 - \$585,000 Pre-Construction
 - \$3,999,660 Construction
- **CALTRANS Encroachment Permit**
 - Short portion of work within SR33 Right-of-Way
- **Accelerated Project Timeline**



Ventura River Trail – Project Timeline





Design and Engineering – Key Project Features

Paving

1.8 miles

Improved Trail Surfacing

Improved Trail Section for
Accessibility

66,000 square feet

Full Depth Reclamation

Access

4

New ADA Access
Points

4

Upgraded Existing
ADA Access Points

4

Curb Ramps +
Bike Ramps

Fencing

3,800 Linear Feet
Improved Fencing

Lighting

93

Solar Trail Lights
Installed





Design and Engineering – Key Project Features

Trail Identity + Wayfinding

On-trail Wayfinding

Neighborhood
Wayfinding

On-Trail Ecological
Signage

Urban Greening

265
New Trees Planted

**12,500 Square
Feet**
Drought Tolerant Shrub
Planting

Amenities

8
Trash / Recycling Receptacles

1
Drinking Fountain

4
Trail Respite Stations

1
Visibility Mirror

Public Art

1
New Public Art Mural

EXISTING



PROPOSED



COMPLETED



EXISTING



PROPOSED



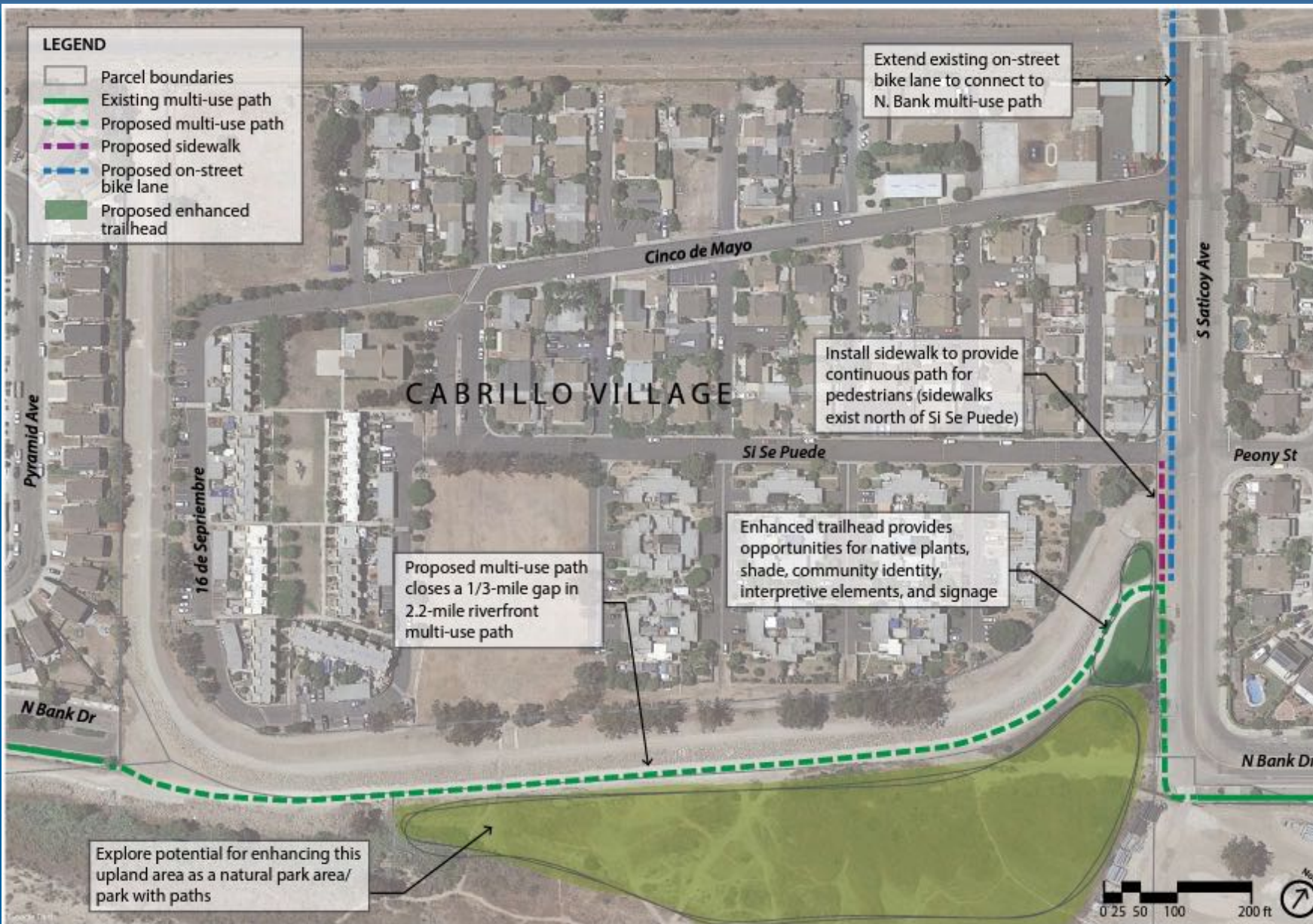
COMPLETED



Ventura River Trail – Ribbon Cutting



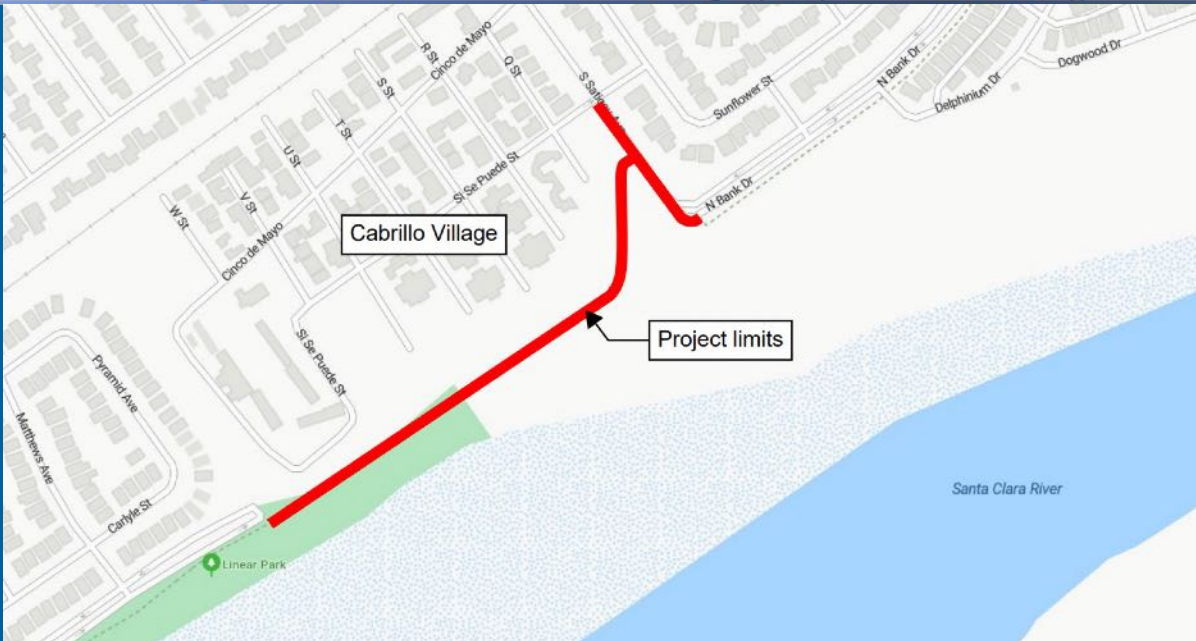
Cabrillo Village Bike Path



- Caltrans Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 Grant Funded Project
- Along Ventura County Watershed Protection Levee
- Formalizes an Already Well Used Path.
- Non-Vehicular Connection Between Saticoy and North Bank.
- Missing Link for a Santa Clara River Loop Trail System

-
- The left photograph shows the gravel area before the permeable pavement was installed. A concrete curb and a wooden fence are visible on the left side of the gravel area. The right photograph shows the gravel area after the permeable pavement was installed. The gravel has been replaced with a light-colored, textured permeable pavement material. A concrete curb and a wooden fence are visible on the left side of the permeable pavement area.

Existing Gap-Proposed Trail Location, Typ.



Prepared for Friends of Santa Clara River & Sierra Club through
technical assistance from National Park Service - Rivers, Trails

The Ventura SPBL Project is a 4-mile Class I/IV Multi-Use Trail

- Design funded by **ATP** Cycle 6 (CALTRANS Active Transportation Funding)
- Construction funded by the California Transportation Commission's Solutions for Congested Corridors Program
- No required matching funds needed from City Annual Budget



Caltrans
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS



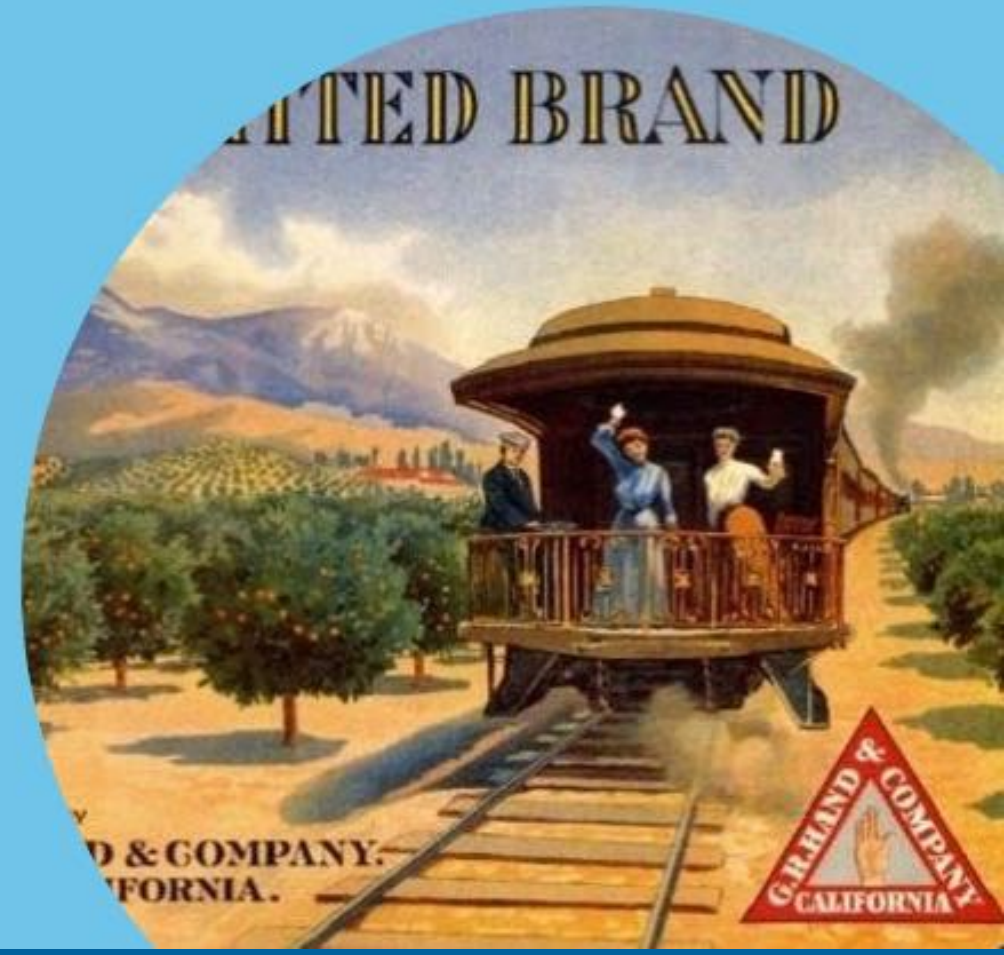
California
**Transportation
Commission**



History of the Santa Paula Branch Line Railroad

a shared history of railroads and agriculture

- Opened in 1887
- The Santa Paula Branch Line (SPBL) right-of-way assembled in 1880s by Southern Pacific Railroad
- ~~Right-of-Way (ROW) refers to a dedicated linear corridor used for transportation infrastructure like roads, rails, and trails.~~
- The SPBL ROW consists of 99 parcels typically 100' wide extending 32 miles from the East Ventura/Montalvo Metrolink Station through unincorporated Piru



SPBL Lease & Operations



SPBL Recreational
Trail Masterplan & EIR

2000

VCTC Goal:
"Reinvigorate the process to complete
the Santa Paula Branch Line bike trail."

2022

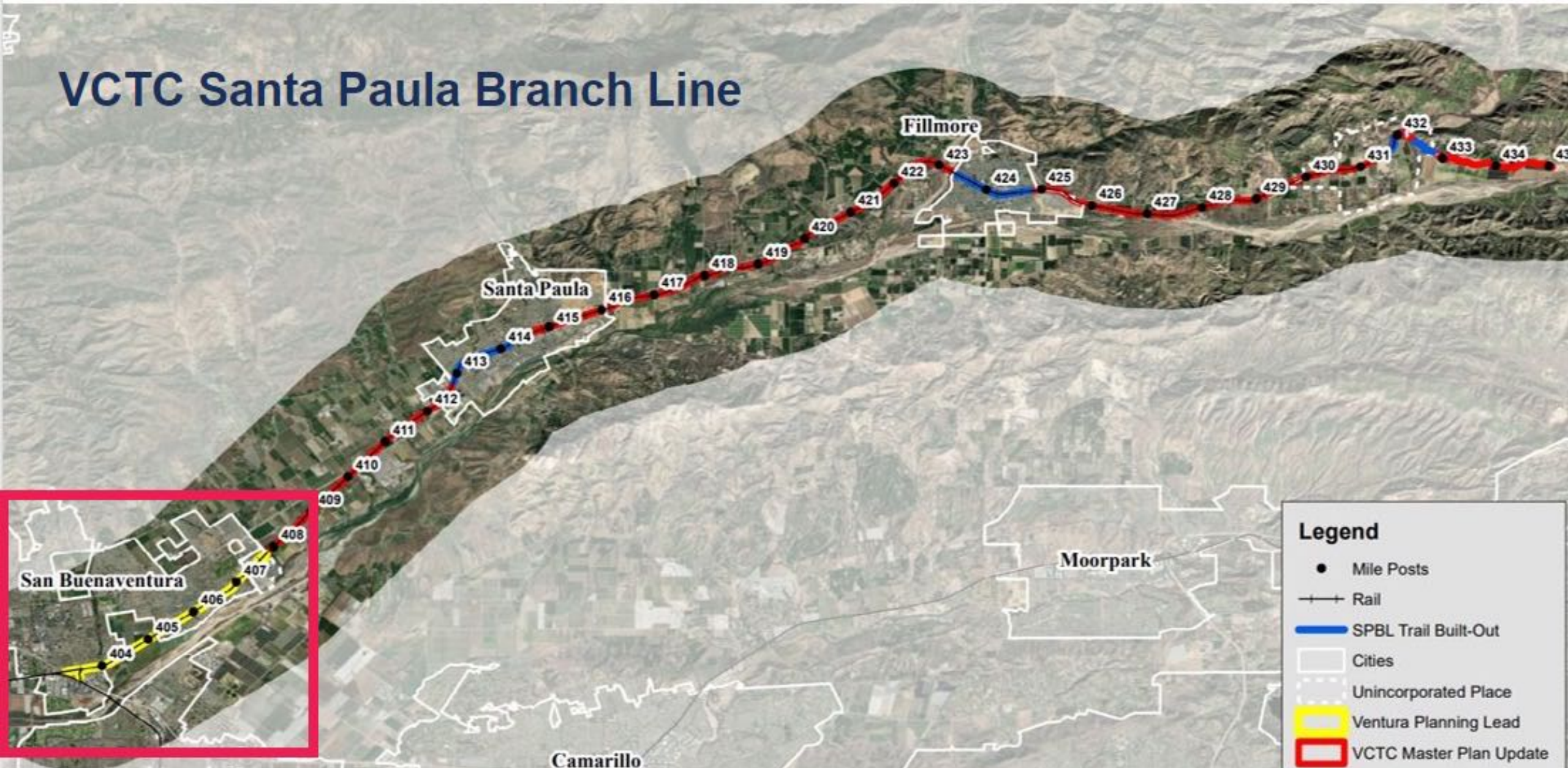
1995
VCTC Purchases
SPBL + ROW

1996
SPBL
Masterplan

2001-2021
Fillmore & Western
Railway Lease
Railroad operations
including tourist/excursion
trains and movie
production

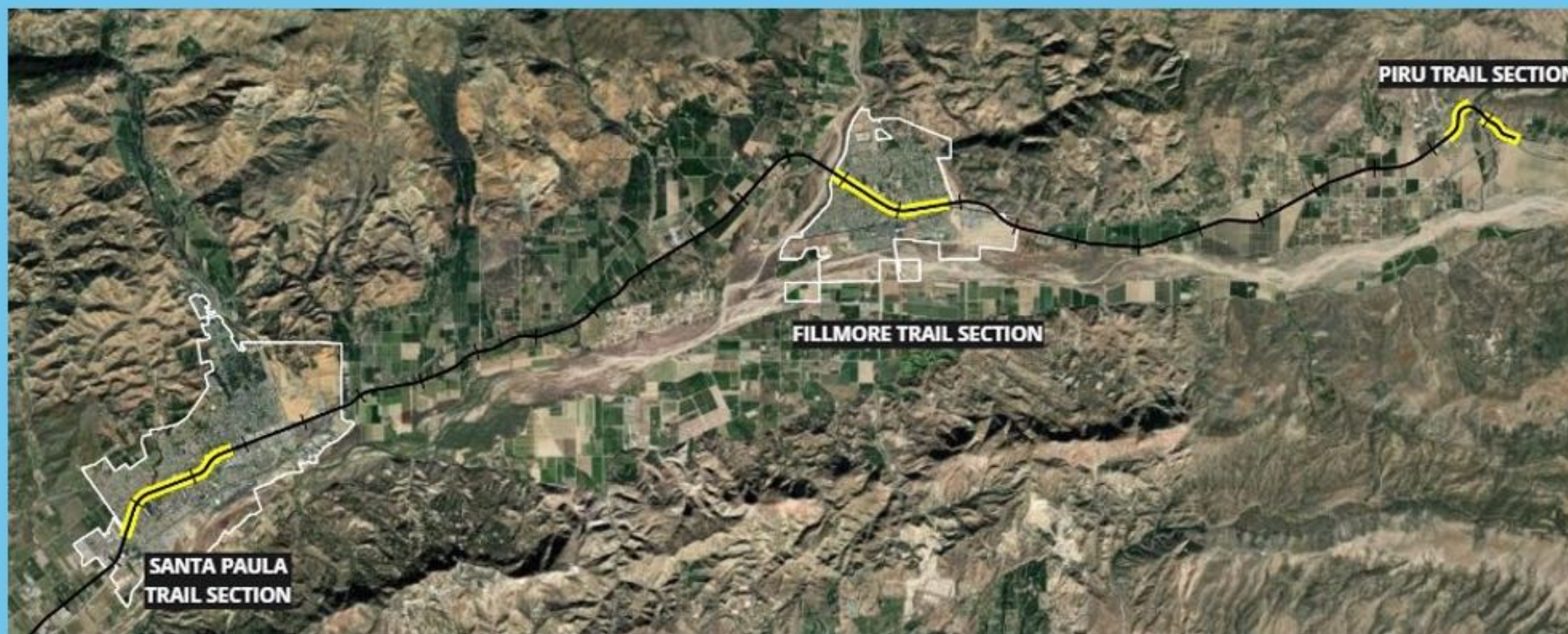
2022-Present
Sierra Northern Railway Lease
Freight operations, maintenance and
film service; Tourist & excursion
services provided by sister company
Mendocino Railway

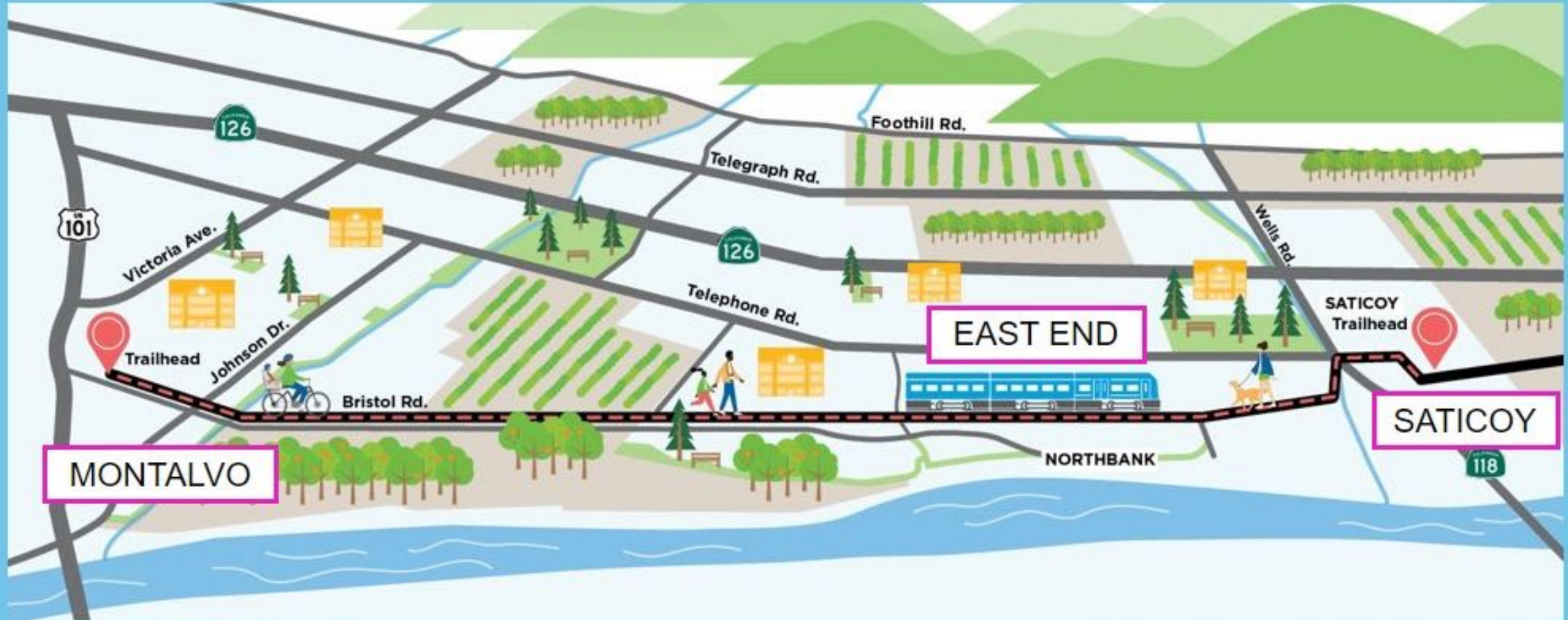
VCTC Santa Paula Branch Line



Santa Paula Branch Line Trail System

Built Trail Sections in Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru





Project Extents

Project Elements

Caltrans ATP 6 (2022) Grant-Awarded Application

- 4 miles of Class I/IV Multi-Modal Trail
- Traffic Signal(s)
- Solar Lights
- Bike/Pedestrian Bridges
- Shade Trees
- Trash cans
- Benches
- Trail Kiosks
- Bike Repair Stations
- Exercise station
- Water Fill Stations

***No required matching funds needed from City Annual Budget*

Critical Public Input Period

Early Design until
May 2024

Early 2024

Bid for Construction
Mid-2025

Grand Opening
End 2026

Project Kick-off
Winter 2023



WE ARE HERE

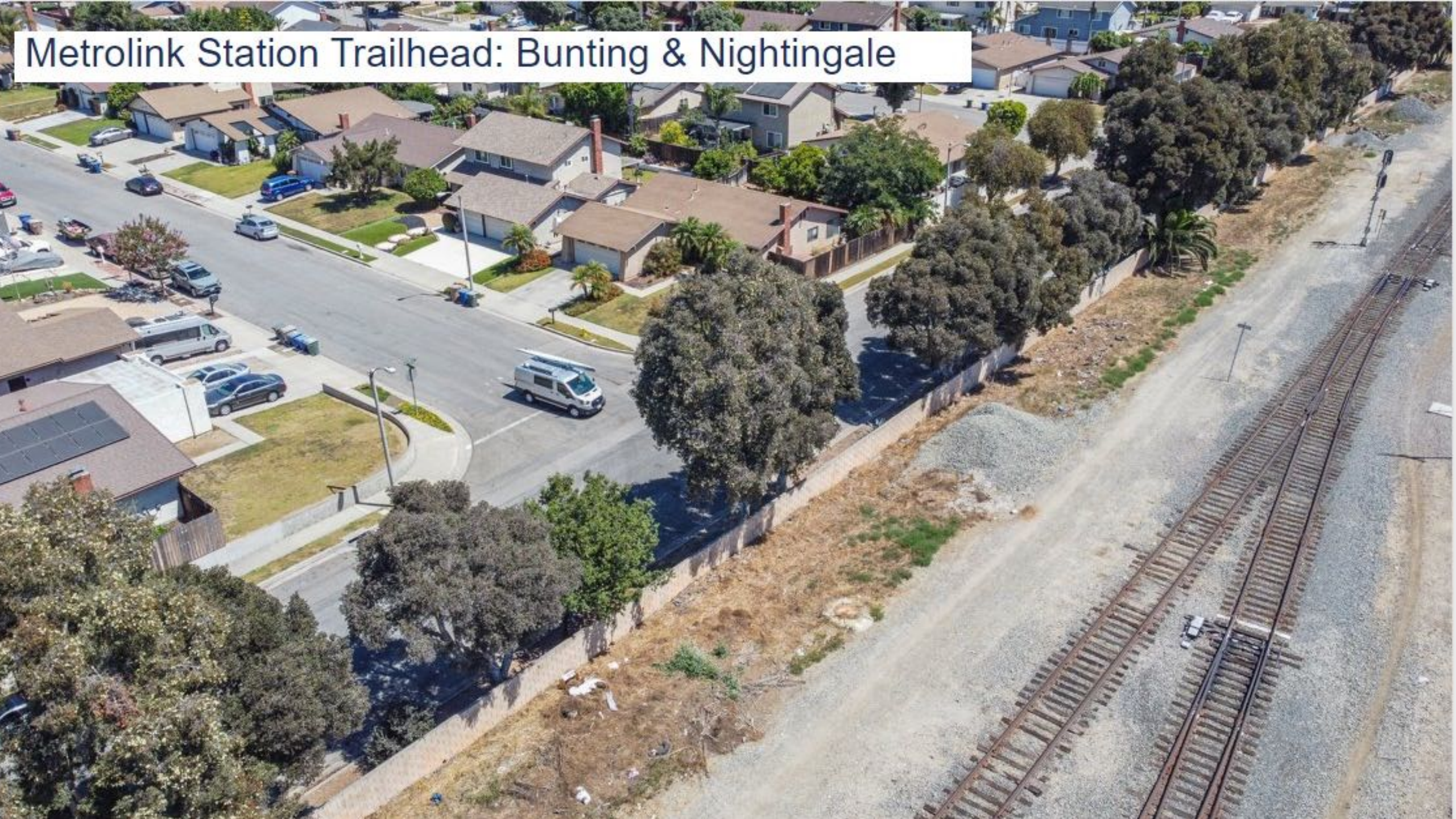


Mid Design
Fall 2024

100% Design, Council
Approval
Spring 2025

Construction
Fall 2025 to Late 2026

Metrolink Station Trailhead: Bunting & Nightingale



Metrolink Station Trailhead: Bunting & Nightingale



Harmon Barranca Crossing



Harmon Barranca Crossing



Bristol Road Crossing



Bristol Road Crossing



North Bank Dr. Community Crossing



North Bank Dr. Community Crossing



Typical Residential Section – Petit to Saticoy



Typical Residential Section – Petit to Saticoy



Public Outreach Plan



Digital
Communications

Website

Meetings

Surveys



Phase 1 Public In-Person Meeting 2, May 21, 2024 at Jose Flores Center in Saticoy



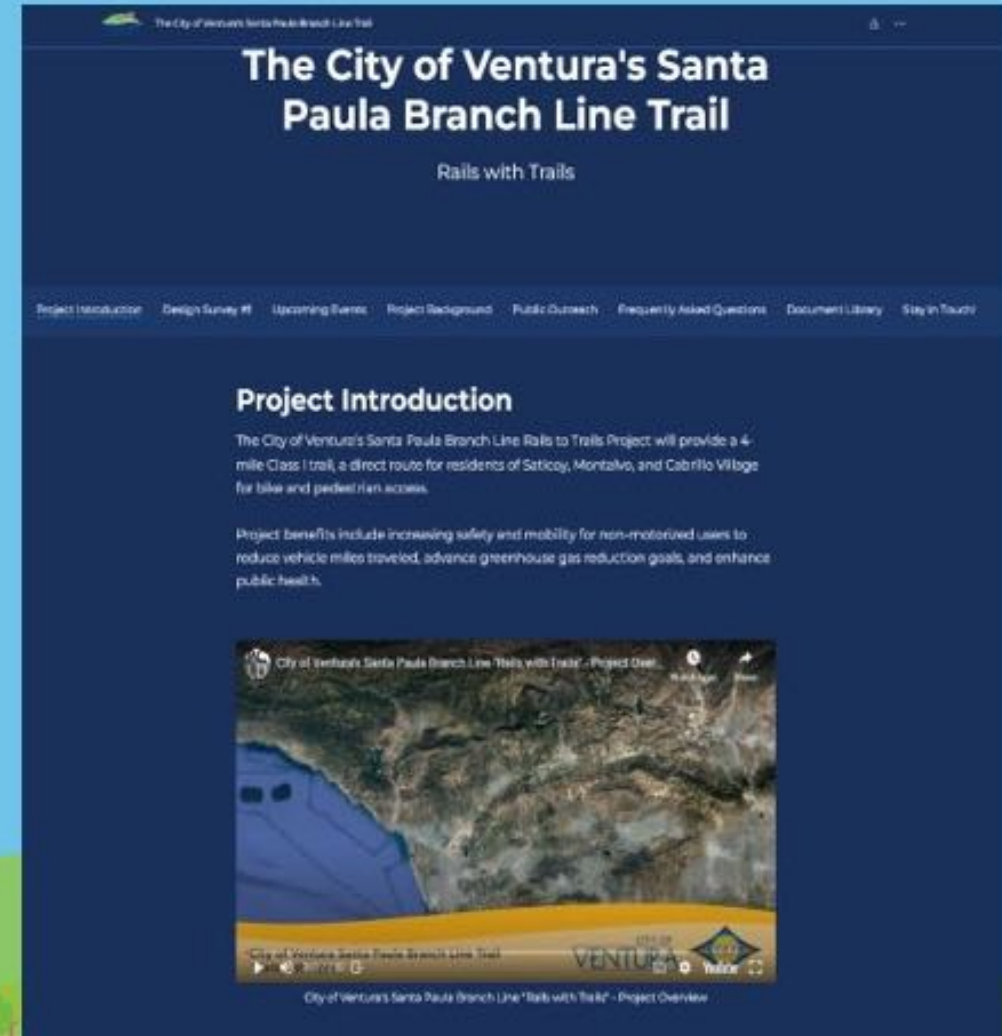
Stay in Touch!

Questions? ATP@cityofventura.ca.gov

Project Website

Sign-up for meeting invites and project updates!

cityofventura.ca.gov/SPBL



DOWNTOWN VENTURA MAIN STREET MOVES



DOWNTOWN VENTURA MAIN STREET MOVES



Thank You!

Jeff Hereford, Principal Transportation Engineer

jhereford@cityofventura.ca.gov

Derek Eason-Towers, Active Transportation Specialist

Dtowers@cityofventura.ca.gov