



2023-24
Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip
To Washington, D.C.

Regional Priorities Submittal Form

Priority title:
Rails to Trails

Sponsoring agency/business:
City of Parlier

Contact name and information:
Sonia Hall, City Manager
City of Parlier
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(559) 646-3545
1100 E. Parlier Avenue
Parlier CA, 93648

Priority title: Rails to Trails

Provide a short introduction of the regional priority:

With this Rails to Trails Project, the City of Parlier will address deficiencies in our city's active transportation network to better serve our residents to access schools and other important destinations in our community. Parlier has an abandoned rail alignment that intersects our community down the middle and travels from north to south. This abandoned, and undeveloped rail alignment lends itself perfectly to providing our residents with a convenient, functional, and safe walking and riding pathway to access schools, churches, shopping centers, government services, and parks. Providing safe, accessible, and enjoyable routes for walking and biking, will give our residents the freedom to choose active and nonmotorized modes of transportation without fearing for their safety; which will improve the air quality in a disadvantaged community heavily burdened by air pollution.

Request summary – provide specific priority “ask”:

The City of Parlier is requesting \$5,000,000 to fund the Rails to Trails project. This funding will be utilized for the right-of-way acquisition, environmental clearance, engineering design, and the physical construction of the improvements.

Request background – Include explanation of the regional significance:

The community and residents of Parlier are requesting more opportunities and access to outdoor recreation. The Rails to Trails project will provide residents with a safe and accessible space for outdoor activities such as walking, running, cycling, and rollerblading. This promotes improved public health and encourages active lifestyles. The project area is traversed by students walking to school daily through these dirt fields. The project will drastically improve walking and biking conditions, providing a paved surface.

The trail will connect the community to key destinations, making it desirable to walk or bike instead of drive. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to increased air quality not only for Parlier but for the region. The trail will connect to the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency bus stop, promoting multi-modal transportation options, making it easier for residents to commute regionally using alternative, sustainable modes of transportation.

Furthermore, the project will incorporate historical markers and interpretive signage that educate trail users about the region's history and culture. This not only preserves local heritage but also serves as a point of regional pride and identity. Overall, the trail will provide several benefits that will positively impact both the local community and the broader region.

If your priority is not transportation related, are there any transportation policy connections:

The project is related to transportation, as it provides access to active modes of transportation and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Are there any economic development benefits?

The project will provide several economic development benefits. Trails often attract visitors from neighboring areas, promoting tourism, and boosting the local economy. Properties located near the trail may see an increase in property value due to improved access to recreational amenities and green spaces. The design, construction and maintenance of the trail will support the local workforce by creating job opportunities in construction and landscaping. The trail will also contribute to increased quality of life,

making Parlier a more desirable place to live in. This will help attract new residents, which can further stimulate economic growth.

Are there any high-resolution photos or other explanatory attachments? If yes, please describe the attachments and include them with your submittal.

The City of Parlier has attached photos of existing conditions of the proposed project location, showing the dirt pathway.

Contact - Include your contact information and the contact information of the person that will be attending the One Voice trip to speak on behalf of your priority:

Project Submitter:

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One Voice Participant:

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