



# **2024-25 Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip**

## **Regional Priorities Submittal Form**

**Submittal Deadline: Jan. 6, 2025**

**Keep your regional priority content to less than three pages long. Do not change the font (*Arial*). Contact Brenda Thomas at [bthomas@fresnocog](mailto:bthomas@fresnocog) with questions.**

**One Voice Proposed Priority title:**

**Parlier to Reedley Education Trail**

**Sponsoring agency/business:**

**City of Parlier**

## **1. Request summary – provide specific priority “ask(s)”:**

The City of Parlier urgently seeks the support of Congressional representatives to advocate to the Department of Transportation for funding through the highly competitive BUILD discretionary grant program. The City has submitted an application for the FY 2025 BUILD grant cycle, requesting \$11.8 million to fully fund the transformative Parlier to Reedley Educational Trail project. This critical investment will enable right-of-way acquisition, environmental clearance, engineering design, and the construction of a safe, multimodal, three-mile trail that will enhance connectivity, improve public safety, and promote economic opportunities for the region. Federal support is essential to ensure this project moves forward, providing much-needed infrastructure improvements.

## **2. About the Priority:** (Provide specific information about your proposed priority. Include information you want included in the trip materials.)

The Parlier to Reedley Education Trail will connect the cities of Parlier and Reedley, addressing deficiencies in the region’s active transportation network to better serve our residents to access higher education and other important destinations in the region. Manning Avenue is a principal arterial roadway connecting several communities within Fresno County. The project proposes to construct a protected and separated multi-purpose trail alongside Manning Avenue to connect Parlier and Reedley.

Parlier residents lack equitable access to higher education opportunities. Individuals and families that share one vehicle for the entire household, or who may not have a vehicle at all, are at an educational and economic disadvantage because there are very limited options to access the educational, economic, and recreational opportunities that are outside of walking distance. Parlier and Reedley are neighboring cities that are physically separated by the Kings River, with the Manning Avenue arterial corridor being the only means by which Parlier residents can directly access Reedley, and vice versa.

Although Parlier and Reedley are serviced by the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, there is only a single inter-city transit bus that connects the two cities. With only one transit bus serving these two rural cities, there are only three bus pick-up times for Parlier residents to travel from Parlier to Reedley, and back. This Project will expand the mobility options available to our residents. With a safe, protected, shaded, and lighted multi-purpose pathway, residents from both cities will be able to walk, ride, scooter, or rollerblade themselves to access the services they need without being forced to plan their travel needs around the fixed bus transit bus schedule. Although the transit bus provides a vital service and is indeed used by residents from both cities, it unfortunately does not work for everyone’s needs and schedules.

With this Project, the City of Parlier and the City of Reedley will address deficiencies in our city’s active transportation network to better serve our residents’ limited mobility options to access the Reedley Community College, business centers, recreational, and other important destinations offered by each city. The proposed trail alongside the Manning Avenue corridor will provide our residents with a convenient, functional, equitable, and safe multi-purpose 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 non motorized modes of transportation without fearing for their safety. Reducing fossil-fueled vehicle miles driven will improve the air quality for our disadvantaged community that is heavily burdened by greenhouse gas emissions and particulate matter pollution.

## **3. Priority background – (Include the priority issues, history and an explanation of the regional significance if not provided in question 1)**

The community and residents of Parlier are requesting more opportunities and access to outdoor recreation, higher education and key destinations. Manning Avenue lacks a designated or protected path for pedestrians and bicyclists, creating unsafe conditions for both pedestrians and vehicles. The project proposes to construct a regional trail along Manning Avenue to directly connect the communities of Parlier and Reedley.

The proposed regional trail is approximately 3 miles in length, connecting Parlier residents to the neighboring community of Reedley, which offers additional resources and services that Parlier does not

have, such as a hospital, banks, department of motor vehicles, additional employment opportunities, and the regional community college - Reedley College. The trail will give an opportunity for those without access to a vehicle to access these resources. Most importantly, the trail will increase equity for those without a vehicle to attend Reedley College, providing access to higher education.

This trail project will not only benefit the community of Parlier but will also provide economic benefits to Reedley with more students attending the college and visiting the city. The trail will also benefit Reedley residents with access to additional employment opportunities in Parlier with major employers such as Maxco and Sunwest. Furthermore, the trail will also provide additional recreational opportunities for Reedley residents, providing a safe trail to walk, bike, skate and rollerblade.

Since the communities are close in proximity, the trail will encourage the communities to walk or bike instead of drive. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to increased air quality not only for Parlier and Reedley but for the region. Overall, the trail will provide several benefits that will positively impact both the local communities and the broader region.

**4. 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.

**5. Provide high-resolution photos, graphics or other explanatory attachments for the One Voice trip materials. Do not copy and paste them here, attach them as separate electronic files. Then, describe the attachments and include them with your submittal.**

Project Location Map – Depicts the location of the proposed trail and connectivity to key destinations in Parlier and Reedley.

**6. Contact** – Include the contact information for the priority submittal **and** the contact information of the person that will be attending the One Voice trip to speak on behalf of the priority:

**Project Contact:**

Javier Andrade, City Engineer  
City of Parlier  
jandrade@parlier.ca.us  
(559) 991-5408  
1100 E. Parlier Avenue  
Parlier, CA 93648

**One Voice Participant:**

Alma Beltran, Mayor  
City of Parlier  
ABeltran@parlier.ca.us  
(559) 356-9889  
1100 E. Parlier Avenue  
Parlier, CA 93648