



2025-26 Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip

Regional Priorities Submittal Form

Submittal Deadline: Wed., Jan. 15, 2026

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

One Voice Proposed Priority title:

Easton Complete Streets

Sponsoring agency/business:

County of Fresno

- 1. Request summary** – provide specific “ask”. Keep this brief. It should not include the project history or background:

The Easton Complete Streets project would construct sidewalks with curb & gutter and replace non- ADA-compliant curb ramps and driveway approaches. A storm drain system would be installed as part of the project to address drainage from the new gutters that will be installed. Roadway reconstruction or widening will be necessary to be able to correct the drainage pattern to the new storm drainage system. Miscellaneous appurtenant work, including but not limited to, installation of appropriate road safety signage and striping, removal of necessary trees, relocation of existing utilities, and survey monument replacement will also be included with the proposed improvements. The project estimate is \$8 million, \$1 million of these funds have been awarded through the Active Transportation and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

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

Easton is one of 38 unincorporated disadvantaged communities in the 6,000 square mile Fresno County. With over 3,400 road miles to maintain, there are not enough gas tax revenues to pay for drainage and sidewalks without congressionally allocated funding. Several models have determined that Fresno County is among the most vulnerable counties in the nation when it comes to climate change risk. The majority of the community of Easton lacks a storm drain system. During even mild rain events, near schools such as Washington Colony Elementary and Washington Union High School parents and students must walk in the middle of the street to access the school. Many parts of Easton lack sidewalks which cause safety issues, as students and other residents face heavy traffic and no place to safely walk or bike. Administrators, teachers, and parents from the school district reached out to the County to provide solutions. As an unincorporated community, there is no tax base to pay for such improvements. The community service district typically operates at a deficit and has no means to pay for these types of infrastructure improvements.

Connectivity within the project area is restricted. The number of safe and direct routes between places is limited since existing sidewalks and roads in front of common use places and businesses are in disrepair or non-existent. This impacts daily activities, such as safe paths to school for children. The proposed improvements will address missing and damaged sections of sidewalk, as well as ADA compliance. Safety will improve for vehicular traffic as drainage improvements will minimize road flooding.

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

Large sections of the area lack or have deteriorating sidewalks, and pedestrians are forced to walk in the street, along motor vehicles or on dirt paths. ADA curb ramps are inadequate, forcing wheelchair users to travel in the street alongside traffic; basic ADA amenities are missing. Additionally, the storm drainage system is in disrepair and needs improvements. Areas of the road and shoulders lack adequate drainage and are prone to flooding causing dirt shoulders to become muddy and uneven.

The project would provide basic amenities, such as pedestrian facilities that are ADA compliant, to improve community health and encourage active transportation to different destination points. The community will enjoy improved access and safety in their travels to frequented locations without the barriers that currently exist. Filling these sidewalk gaps will encourage residents to use alternative modes of transportation. With safe walking and cycling infrastructure, residents have a viable option besides driving a car for short trips such as errands, visiting neighbors, or getting to work if their job is nearby.

The higher birth rates in Easton show the intense need for additional pedestrian facilities to accommodate families with young children. For this community the marriage rate is about 50%, higher than the national average of 48.1% and the birth rate is about 65 births per 1000 women age 15-50, also higher than the national average of 52, according to the American Community Survey (ACS).

4. If your priority is not transportation related, are there any transportation policy connections?

N/A

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.**

Location of Proposed Improvements, Photo of Existing Conditions, Engineer's Estimate

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:

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One Voice Participant:

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