



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2026

CITY OF CHICO RECEIVES APWA PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR SALEM STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

CHICO, CA — The City of Chico is proud to announce that the Salem Street Bridge Replacement Project has been selected as the 2026 Project of the Year in the Transportation Category by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The award recognizes outstanding public works projects that exemplify excellence in engineering, project management, construction, sustainability, and community benefit through the collaborative efforts of the entire project team.

The Salem Street Bridge Replacement Project replaced a bridge originally constructed in 1916 with a modern, resilient structure that will safely serve the Chico community for decades to come. Spanning Little Chico Creek between West 9th and West 10th Streets, the bridge is a vital transportation link connecting the Barber neighborhood with Downtown Chico and California State University, Chico. Although the bridge has been completely rebuilt to meet current engineering, seismic, and accessibility standards, its design carefully preserves the architectural character and distinctive charm of the original structure, honoring an important piece of Chico's history while providing a safe and reliable crossing for generations to come.

Designed to improve safety and accessibility for all users, the new bridge features:

- Two travel lanes
- Dedicated 5-foot bicycle lanes
- ADA-accessible sidewalks on both sides of the bridge
- Improved roadway approaches and multimodal connectivity
- Long-term protection against scour and erosion along Little Chico Creek

"Receiving this recognition from APWA is an honor for the City of Chico and everyone who contributed to this project," said Brendan Ottoboni, Director of Public Works – Engineering. "The Salem Street Bridge Replacement Project demonstrates what can be accomplished through strong partnerships, thoughtful planning, and a shared commitment to public service. Together, we transformed a century-old bridge into a safer, more resilient transportation facility that will benefit our community for generations."

Constructed between June and December 2025, the project required close coordination among engineers, environmental specialists, utility providers, contractors, and City staff. Through proactive

planning and effective construction management, the project was completed on schedule while minimizing impacts to nearby residents, businesses, and the traveling public. Throughout construction, the City maintained local access whenever possible and kept the community informed through regular project updates.

The project was funded through the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP), administered by Caltrans Local Assistance, demonstrating the City's successful use of federal funding to replace critical infrastructure and improve transportation safety for the community.

The City extends its sincere appreciation to the entire project team whose dedication and collaboration made this award-winning project possible. Project partners included Mark Thomas (design), Franklin Construction, Inc. (contractor), PSOMAS (construction management), and Caltrans Local Assistance. The City also recognizes its own Public Works staff, including project management, construction oversight, administrative, and support personnel, whose collective expertise guided the project from planning and design through construction and successful completion.

The Salem Street Bridge Replacement Project reflects the City of Chico's continued commitment to investing in infrastructure that enhances public safety, strengthens neighborhood connections, and supports all modes of transportation. As the City continues to modernize its transportation network, projects like the Salem Street Bridge Replacement ensure that residents and visitors alike benefit from reliable, resilient infrastructure that improves quality of life and serves the community for generations.

For media inquiries, please contact the Public Works Engineering Department at (530) 879-6900.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.

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