



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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CITY OF CHICO'S 2026 CONSTRUCTION SEASON TO KICKOFF

CHICO, CA – The City of Chico Public Works - Engineering Department is proud to announce the start of the 2026 construction season, bringing with it a robust lineup of infrastructure projects to improve safety, connectivity, and quality of life across our community.

This year, the City will invest over \$29 million into roadways, bridges, sewers, and neighborhood infrastructure. Projects include a bridge replacement, signal enhancements, and significant rehabilitation work across the City - thanks to strong support from residents, local businesses, and funding from local, state, and federal partners.

“These projects are an investment in safety, sustainability, and quality of life,” said Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works – Engineering Director. “We’re grateful to our community for their continued partnership as we make these long-term improvements together.”

Below is a full list of major projects beginning in 2026. A project map is also available on the City’s Capital Projects webpage.

- **Pomona Avenue Bridge Replacement**

The Pomona Avenue Bridge Replacement project will replace the structurally deficient and functionally obsolete Pomona Avenue Bridge over Little Chico Creek with a modern, safer structure. The new bridge will include two travel lanes, 5-foot bike lanes, and a sidewalk on the north side, to improve access for all users. Approximately 100 feet of Pomona Avenue at each end of the bridge will be reconstructed to provide smooth roadway transitions and connectivity. Located between Pomona Lane and Elmer Street, the bridge serves as an important link for residents in the surrounding area.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: June 2026
- Funding Source: Federal - Highway Bridge Program

- **Fair Street Rehabilitation**

The Fair Street Rehabilitation project includes roadway rehabilitation and localized reconstruction to address deteriorating pavement conditions while enhancing overall safety and accessibility. Improvements will also include the installation of Class II bike lanes, new sidewalks, landscape parkway zones where feasible, and upgrades to ADA facilities throughout the corridor. These improvements are intended to create safer, clearly defined travel spaces for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians while improving multimodal

connectivity along Fair Street.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: June 2026
- Funding Source: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery

- **2026 Road Rehabilitation – E. 20th Street**

The 2026 Road Rehabilitation – E. 20th Street project will improve the eastern section of E. 20th Street from the on/off ramps at SR99 north to Notre Dame Boulevard. The project includes road surface rehabilitation, striping, upgrades to existing bicycle lanes, installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps, new signage and drainage features. Collectively, these improvements will enhance corridor safety, improve roadway conditions, and support safer and more efficient travel for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: Summer 2026
- Funding Source: Local – Measure H

- **2026 Road Rehabilitation – Ceanothus Avenue**

This 2026 Road Rehabilitation – Ceanothus Avenue project includes the Full-Depth Reclamation (FDR) of Ceanothus Avenue from Manzanita Avenue to East Avenue. In addition, the project includes sidewalk gap closures, pedestrian enhancements, and adding a designated northbound right-turn lane into Pleasant Valley High School. The project includes ADA improvements at key locations throughout the corridor, increasing accessibility, and safety for all users.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: May 2026
- Funding Source: Local - Measure H, Chico Unified School District, Butte County Air Quality Management District

- **2026 Pavement Preservation**

The 2026 Pavement Preservation project will apply a slurry seal to extend pavement life and improve road surface quality to Forest Avenue and local streets in the Brenda Drive Neighborhood, Skymountain Circle Neighborhood, and Amanda Way/Hartford Drive/Springfield Drive Neighborhood. The project will also include new thermoplastic striping to enhance visibility and safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: April 2026
- Funding Source: Local - Measure H

- **Park Avenue Beautification**

The Park Avenue Beautification project will reconstruct the existing multi-use path adjacent to Park Avenue from E. 20th Street to E. Park Avenue. In addition, the landscaping along this corridor will be updated and new art will be installed.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: April 2026
- Funding Source: Clean California Local Grant Program (State)

- **Eaton Road & Floral Avenue Roundabout**

The Eaton Road & Floral Avenue Roundabout project will occur at the intersection of Eaton Road and Floral Avenue where the intersection will be upgraded with a multi-lane roundabout to support future traffic volumes and implement the City's General Plan vision for a widened Eaton Road corridor. The design includes two lanes in each direction on Eaton Road, one lane in each direction on Floral Avenue, improved storm drainage, lighting, walkways, and bike facilities near adjacent apartment complexes.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: April 2026
- Funding Source: Local - Transportation Fund, Streets & Roads Fund, and Street Facility Improvements Fund

- **North Cedar Street Improvements**

The N. Cedar Street Improvements project includes roadway rehabilitation, drainage improvements, and the installation of curb, gutter, and sidewalk along N. Cedar Street from W. 4th Avenue south to W. Sacramento Avenue. The Project will also include landscaping improvements at the intersection of W. Sacramento Avenue and N. Cedar Street.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: June 2026
- Funding Source: Local - Measure H, REAP 2.0 (State)

- **South Park Drive Rehabilitation**

The South Park Drive Rehabilitation project will reconstruct South Park Drive within Lower Bidwell Park, extending from Cypress Street to Centennial Avenue. Planned improvements include roadway reconstruction using Full Depth Reclamation with cement (FDR-C) and new asphalt paving, shoulder backing, new and updated signage, thermoplastic markings and striping, minor asphalt overlay of pedestrian paths, and new vehicle exclusion gates.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: June 2026
- Funding Source: Local - Measure H, General Fund, Transportation Fund, and Streets & Roads Fund

- **SR32 and Bruce Road Signal Enhancements**

The SR32 and Bruce Road Signal Enhancements project enhances traffic operations at the SR32 and Bruce Road intersection by upgrading traffic signals, relocating poles, and completing turn lane configurations. It also improves pedestrian access with curb ramp upgrades and connectivity enhancements.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: Late Summer 2026
- Funding Source: Local

- **City-Wide Pedestrian Enhancements**

The City-Wide Pedestrian Enhancements project will install new pedestrian safety enhancements including Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI), Audible Pedestrian System

(APS) hardware, along with upgrading signal hardware, with Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) equipment to 22 traffic signals. Locations adjacent to schools and school routes, as well as high-crash intersections, have been prioritized.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: Spring 2026
- Funding Source: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

- **Vallombrosa Way Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety**

The Vallombrosa Way Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety project will install an additional pedestrian and bicycle crossing at the intersection of Vallombrosa Ave and Memorial Way, and Memorial Way and Camelia Way intersections. Along with widened pedestrian refuges, upgrading pedestrian ramps to ADA requirements, signal modifications and upgraded Audible Pedestrian signals.

- Anticipated Project Start Date: Summer 2026
- Funding Source: Local – Transportation Fund

Throughout these projects, local access within construction zones will be maintained with appropriate traffic controls to ensure the safety of both motorists and construction crews. Temporary delays as well as detours are expected as crews and equipment operate in active work areas, and one-lane traffic may be necessary during certain phases. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time, and consider alternate routes when possible. The City of Chico greatly appreciates the community's patience and cooperation as we work to improve our infrastructure.

For more information and a detailed map of construction areas, please visit <https://chicoca.gov/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/>.

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

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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 world. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.