



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL: CHOWCHILLA AND FAIRMEAD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is applying for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant from the **Reconnecting Communities Pilot** (RCP) program. The RCP program aims to advance community-centered transportation connection projects, prioritizing projects that benefit disadvantaged communities and improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration.

The RCP program seeks to redress the legacy of harm caused by transportation infrastructure, including barriers to opportunity, displacement, damage to the environment and public health, limited access, and other hardships, thereby reducing inequities across our transportation systems and the communities they affect.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Authority is requesting this grant to implement the **Chowchilla and Fairmead Community Improvements** (Project), a series of capital construction projects that will mitigate transportation barriers and other harm to improve access and equity in the City of Chowchilla and the nearby community of Fairmead. The application is for approximately **\$127 million** in federal funding and would be matched by **\$127 million** in State of California Cap-and-Trade revenue for a total project cost of **\$254 million**. Investments include the following elements:

- Construction of two new grade-separated crossings at State Route 152,
- Installation of walking and biking infrastructure,
- Creation of a multi-use trail,
- Modifications of water supply and sewer systems, and
- Construction of a community center.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

The City of Chowchilla and community of Fairmead are located in California's Central Valley. This grant will address long standing connectivity issues from previous highway construction and prepare the area for future economic and community growth with the anticipated operation of the High-Speed Rail system. The Authority is currently partnering with Madera County, the City of Chowchilla, and



the community of Fairmead to cooperatively implement these projects to provide needed benefits and opportunities.

These mitigation projects are located in communities that are considered disadvantaged according to criteria defined by the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative. For instance, Fairmead is highly disadvantaged when considering particulate matter in the air, asthma rates, transportation barriers, low incomes, and linguistic isolation. Chowchilla also experiences disadvantages related to particulate matter in the air, transportation insecurity, low incomes, and limited English proficiency.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

This application is part of an on-going federal-state partnership that, to date, has provided approximately **\$28.8 billion** in combined funding for California High-Speed Rail (**\$22.0 billion / 76% state and \$6.8 billion / 24% federal**). California is the only state in the country to have committed this level of funding to modernizing intercity passenger rail and the Authority is asking the federal government to match this level of commitment with strong grant support of the Project with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding. This federal-state partnership has provided vital financial support resulting in significant job opportunities in many disadvantaged Central Valley communities.