



# CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL: CHOWCHILLA AND FAIRMEAD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is applying for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN). The RCN 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.

## PROJECT SCOPE

The Authority is requesting this grant to implement a series of mitigation projects that will improve access and equity in the City of Chowchilla and the nearby community of Fairmead. The application is for approximately **\$203 million** in federal funding and would be matched by \$51 million in State of California Cap-and-Trade revenue for a total project cost of \$254 million. Investments include the following projects:

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

## IMPROVEMENTS

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. 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 across three census tracts in the region, with two of the three deemed disadvantaged as defined in the Biden Administration's Justice40 screening tool. The community of Fairmead is the most disadvantaged and is ranked 98th for transportation barriers, 97th for asthma rates, 82nd for low income, and 90th for linguistic isolation.

## BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

This application builds on the federal government's prior investments of approximately \$3.8 billion, including \$271 million from three recent Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program grant awards and one Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program grant award.

This federal-state partnership has provided vital financial support resulting in significant job opportunities in many disadvantaged Central Valley communities. This application is a part of a holistic federal-state partnership strategy to leverage over \$14.2 billion in State of California funding provided to date, including \$9 billion of Proposition 1A bonds approved by California voters and \$6.2 billion in dedicated revenues (as of August 2023) from the innovative Cap-and-Trade greenhouse gas reduction auction program. California is the only state in the country to have committed this level of funding to advance electrified, 220 mph high-speed rail.