

Welcome!

Community Workshop #2

Santa Paula Branch Line Trail Master Plan Update and EIR/EIS

October 7, 2025





Agenda

- **Workshop Overview**
- **Project Background**
- **Project Engagement**
- **Conceptual Alignment Ideas**
- **Project Timeline**
- **Ways to Get Involved**
- **Open House & Activity**

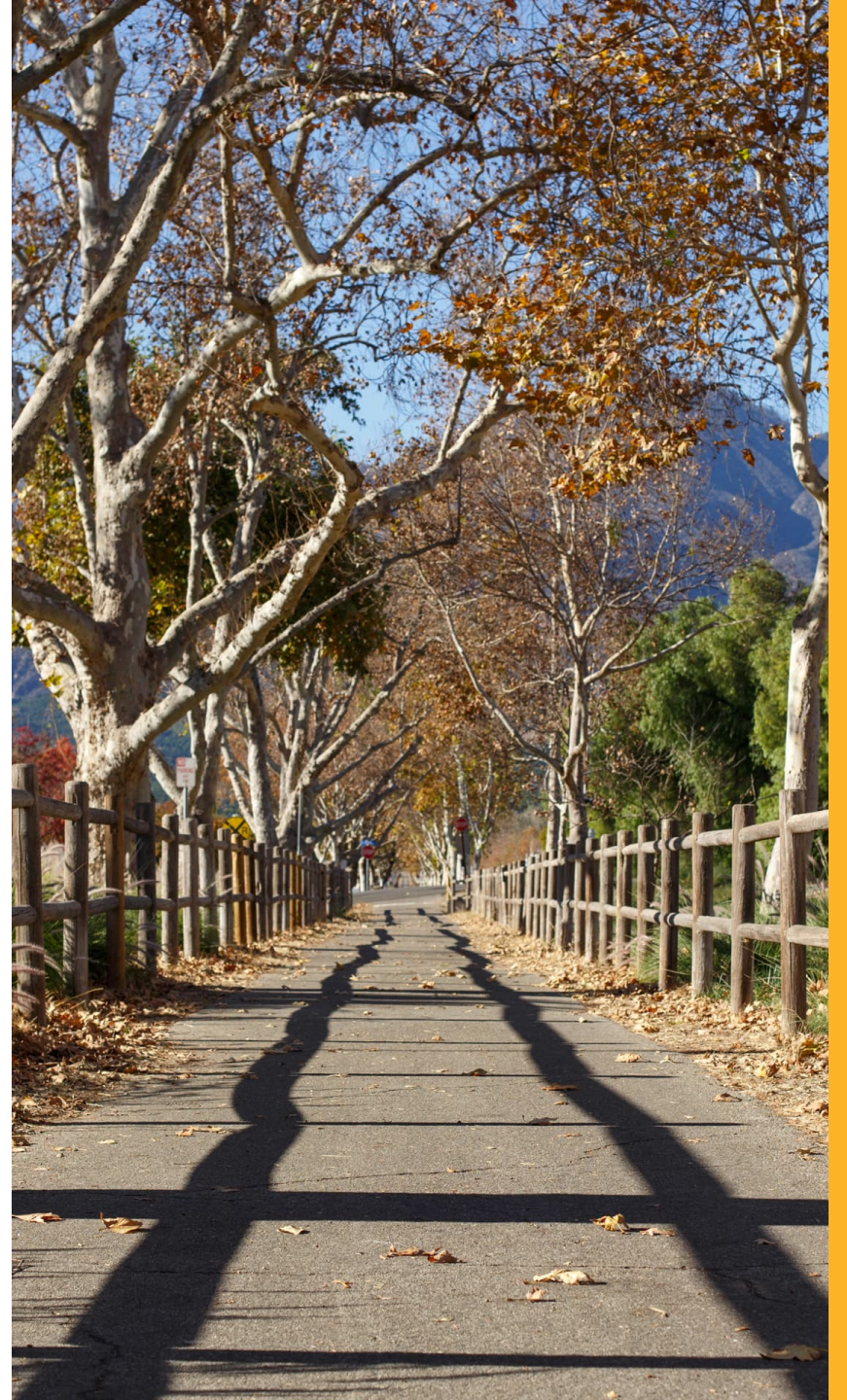


Workshop Overview



Why are we here?

- Share information about the process to update the Santa Paula Branch Line Trail Master Plan from 2000
- Gather your input on your priorities, vision, and needs from a future trail
- Workshop possibilities for the trail route in specific locations



Why are we here?

- Share information about the process to update the Santa Paula Branch Line Trail Master Plan from 2000
- Gather your input on your priorities, vision, and needs from a future trail
- Workshop possibilities for the trail route in specific locations

Your participation will reinvigorate Santa Paula Branch Line Trail planning from Saticoy to Piru by helping us to

- Generate an implementable vision for the trail
- Develop new environmental documents (Program EIR/EIS)





Community Workshop #1

June 24, 2025 – Fillmore Public Library

Types of input gathered:

- Trail routing ideas
- Safety and trail design
- Trail surface material & cost
- Trail use and gaps
- Comparable projects
- Engagement and outreach strategy



Incorporating Feedback

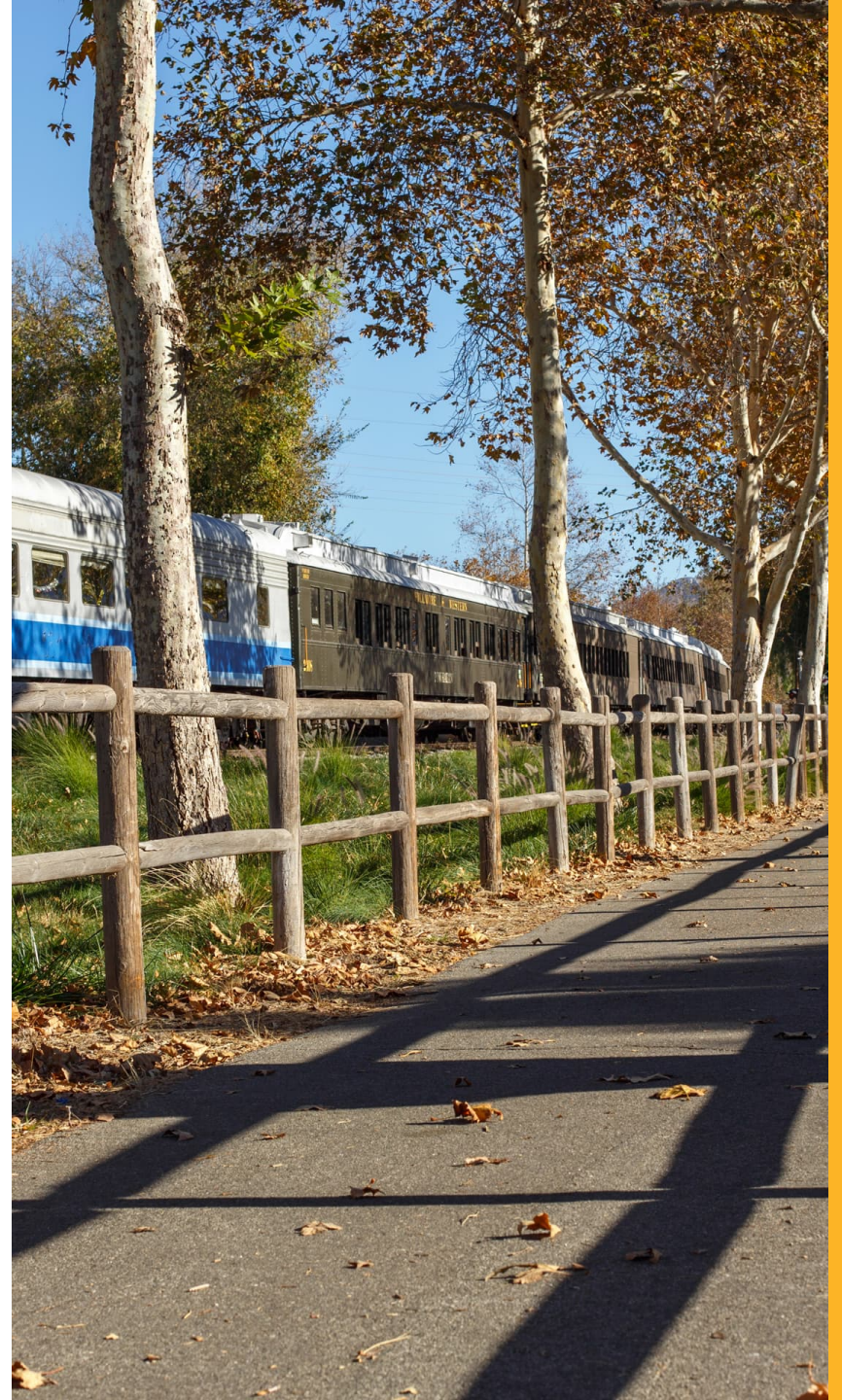
Feedback from the first workshop was used to:

- Update roll maps and develop alignments
- Inform existing conditions
- Begin constraints and opportunities
- Improve project coordination with project partners and stakeholders



Progress Since Last Workshop

- Completed existing conditions report
- Advanced constraints and opportunities analysis
- Began alternatives development
- Began cross section development
- Initiated master planning process
- Conducted pop-up community events in Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru
- Initiated one-on-one stakeholder meetings
 - Seven meetings held so far, including a tour of the railroad corridor



Today's Workshop

- Ask questions and share your thoughts with our project team
- Review the maps:
 - Do the lines on the maps best represent where you would like to travel?
 - What types of features do you want to see along the trail?

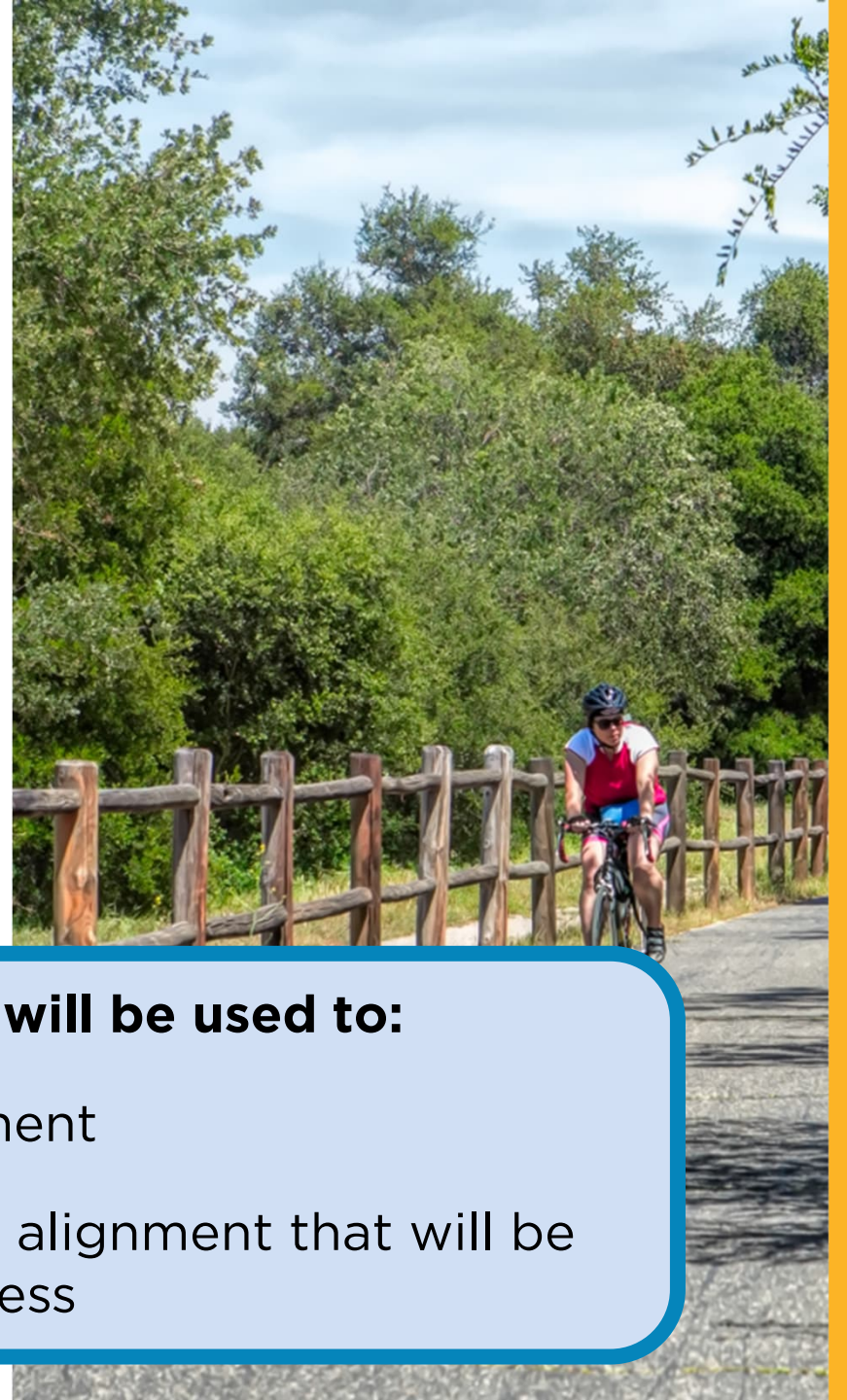


Today's Workshop

- Ask questions and share your thoughts with our project team
- Review the maps:
 - Do the lines on the maps best represent where you would like to travel?
 - What types of features do you want to see along the trail?

Feedback from today's workshop will be used to:

- Continue to inform Master Plan development
- Generate a set of alternatives for the trail alignment that will be studied in the environmental review process



Project Background

Talk to staff around the room to learn more!



What is the Project?

- SPBL Trail Master Plan Update and EIR/EIS Project
- Rails WITH Trails
- Updates Master Plan from 2000
 - No construction planned at this time
- Develops new environmental document



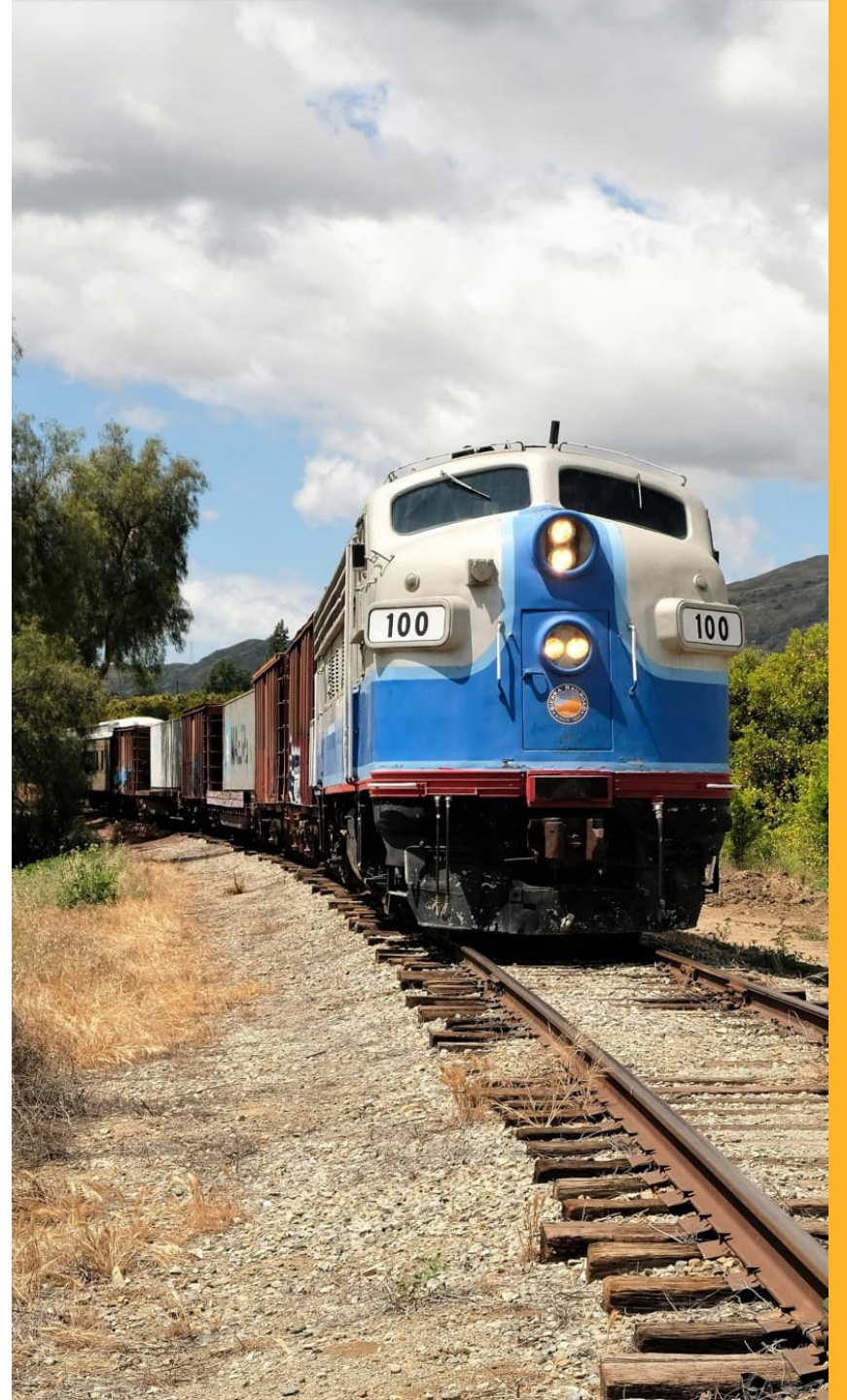
Source: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/public-works/engineering/public-works-projects/coastal-rail-trail>



Key Project Objectives

- Meet commuter and recreational needs
- Connect to existing and planned trails
- Maximize user safety
- Minimize disruption to adjacent agricultural activities
- Continued & expanded tourism
- Integrate cultural, historical, and educational elements
- High-quality linear park experience

Source: *Master Plan EIR 2000*



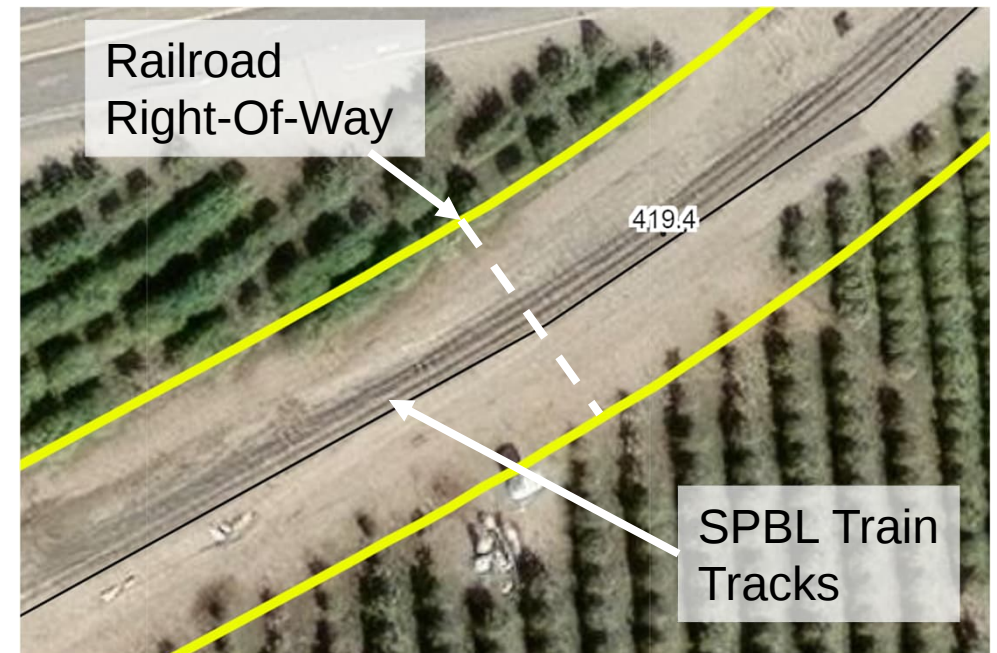
History of the SPBL Railroad

- SPBL right-of-way assembled in 1880s by Southern Pacific Railway
- Opened in 1887
- Shared history of railroads and agriculture



What is Right-of-Way?

- Right-of-way refers to a linear corridor used for transportation infrastructure like roads, railroads, and trails
- VCTC-owned SPBL right-of-way consists of 99 parcels typically 100' wide extending 32 miles from East Ventura/Montalvo Metrolink Station through unincorporated Piru community



Source: <https://www.goventura.org/getting-around/spbl/>



SPBL Timeline (1995 – Now)



Services and Activities on the SPBL

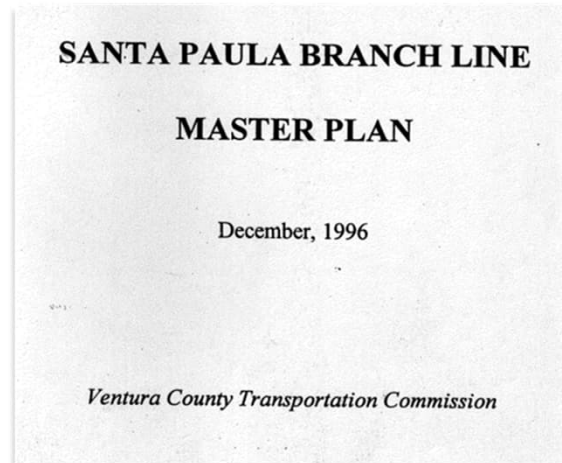
- Railroad Lease & Operations Agreement with Sierra Northern Railway defines use for “Railroad Purposes”
 - Freight and transload services
 - Installing spur lines
 - Storing/switching rail cars
 - Services related to movie, film, television, commercial, media, and entertainment
 - Tourism and seasonal passenger services



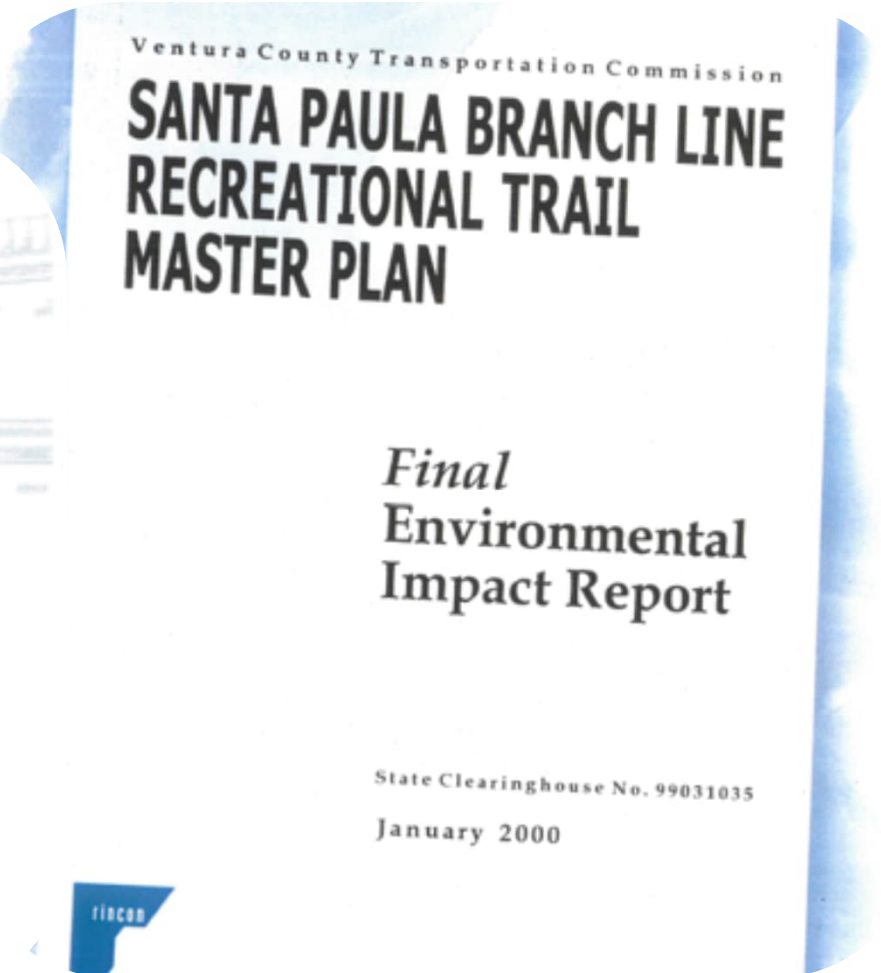
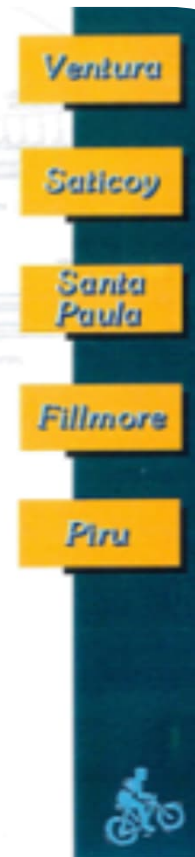
Acquisition, Trail Master Plan & EIR

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (not to exceed 60 words)

This project is the acquisition of the 32-mile-long Santa Paula Branch railroad right-of-way for use as a multimodal corridor serving five communities within Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. The corridor will be used for a bicycle and hiking trail; for freight port access, recreation, and possibly commuter rail service; for pipelines and utilities; for public parks, greenbelts and gateways to communities; for access to the Coastal Bicycle Trail and the De Anza National Historic Trail; and for access to the State High Speed Rail Corridor. The acquisition includes 388 acres of land, 29 miles of operating track, bridges, buildings and related improvements.



Santa Paula Branch Line
Recreational Trail
Master Plan



Existing Trail Segments

Built Trail Sections in Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru

**Santa Paula –
2.2 miles opened 2012**



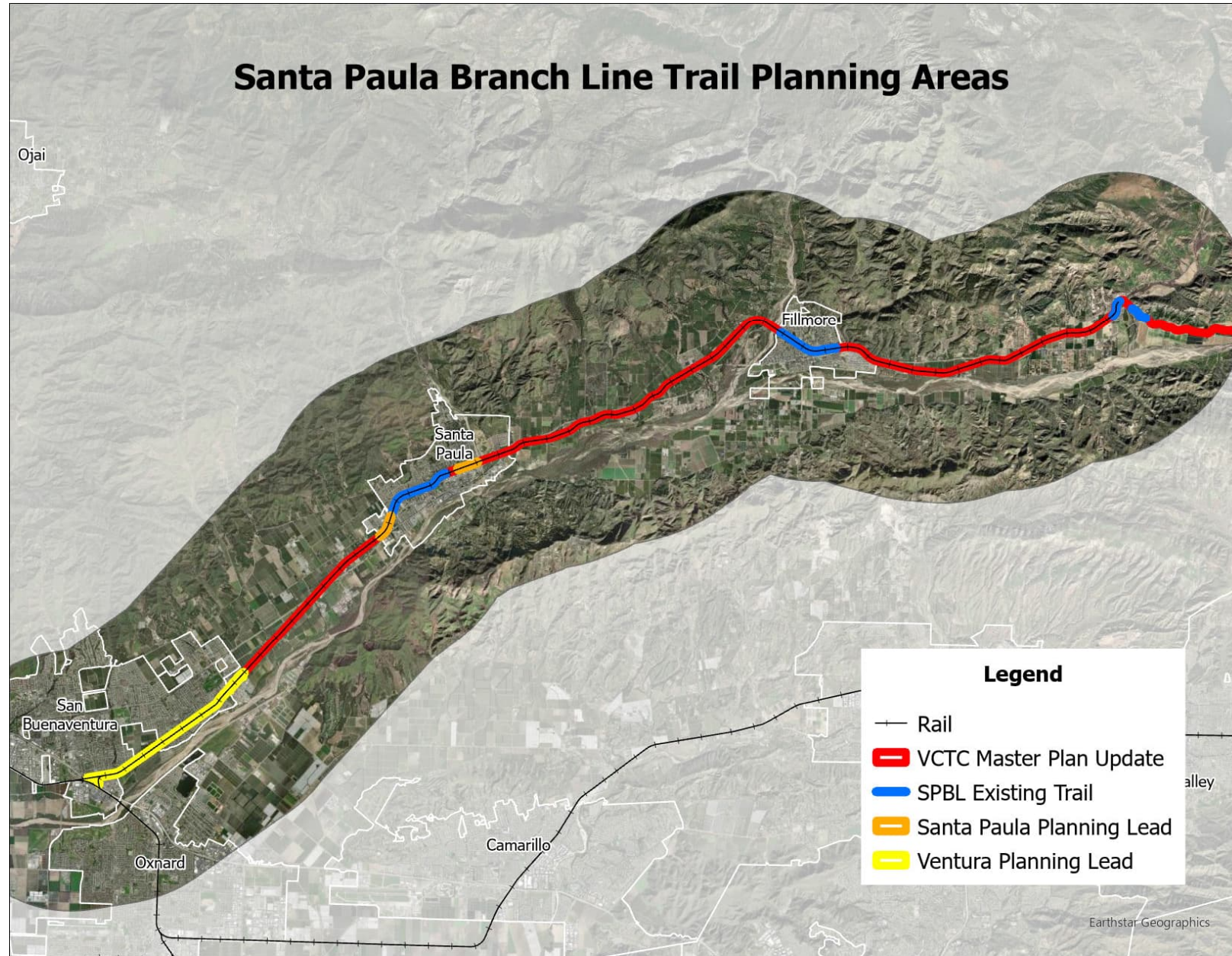
**Fillmore – 1.3 miles
opened 2007**



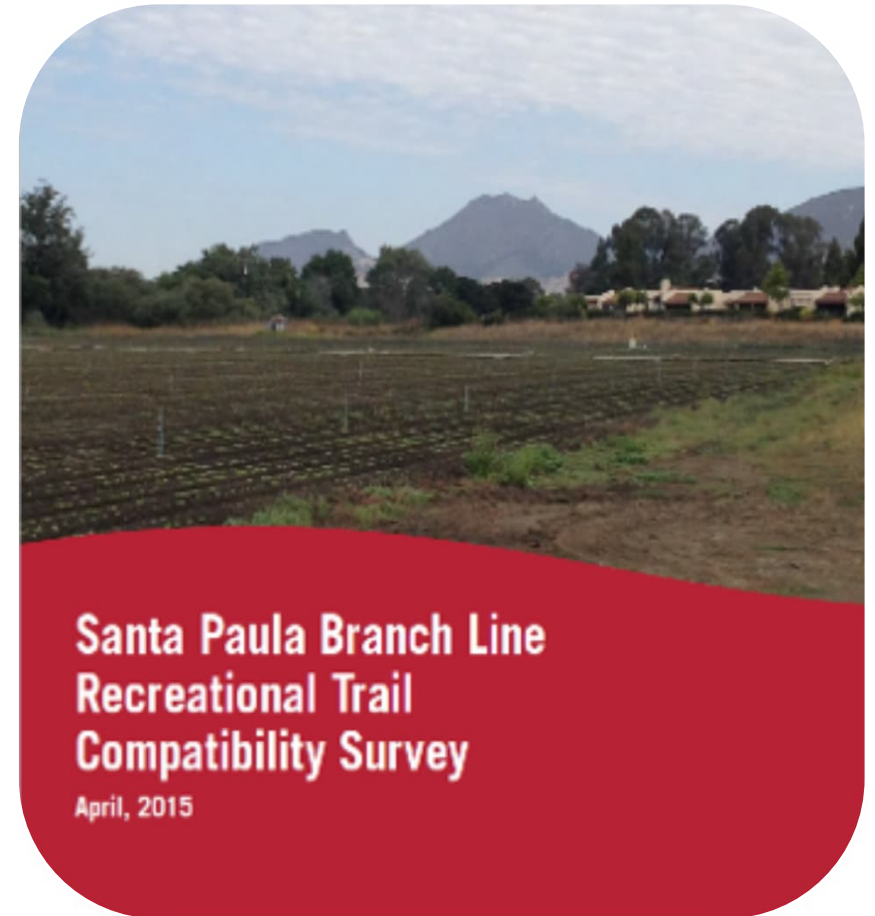
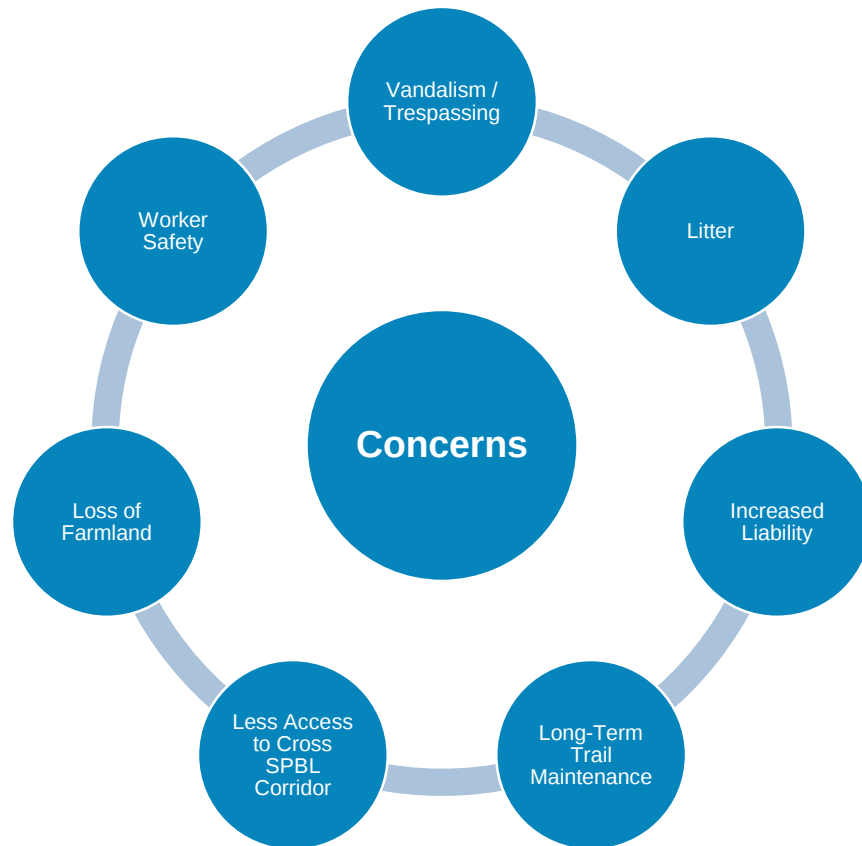
**Piru – 0.3 miles
opened 2005 & 2007**



Santa Paula Branch Line Today



Trail Compatibility



Local Plan Compatibility



Santa Paula 2040 General Plan



Source: City of Santa Paula General Plan Update, Mobility Element Technical Report, December 2019

Figure 3-10 – Preferred Plan, Bicycle Facilities

March 4, 2020

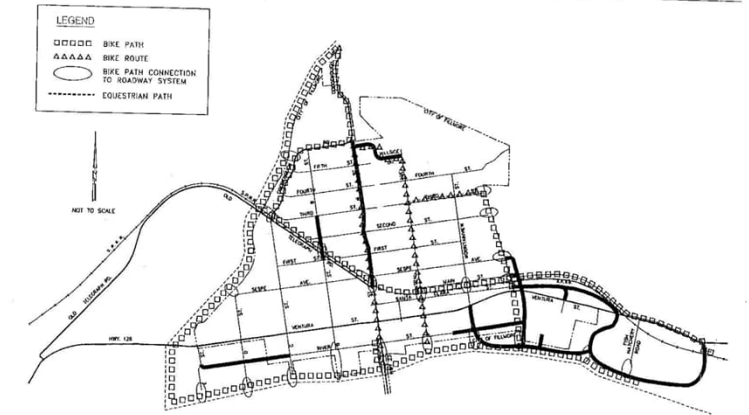
Circulation and Mobility – 3-35

**City of Santa Paula 2040
General Plan (2020)**



**County of Ventura
2040 General Plan**

City of Fillmore
General Plan Update EIR
Circulation Element



Source: Wilson Associates, 2000

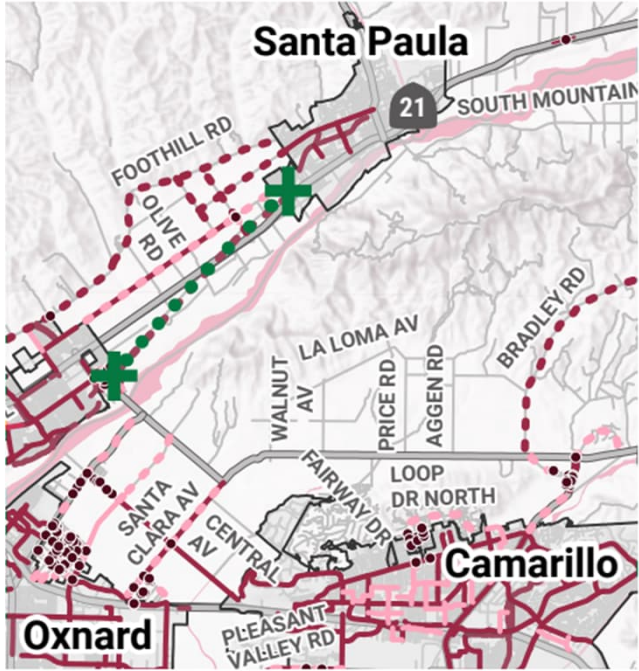
Proposed City-Wide Bicycle Circulation System

C-7

City of Fillmore

**City of Fillmore
General Plan (2003)**

VCTC Bicycle Wayfinding Plan (2017)



Location within county



Saticoy Active Transportation Plan

September 2020

Ventura County Active Transportation Plan (2024)



Saticoy Active Transportation Plan (2020)



Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges:

- Right-of-way constraints
- Constrained bridges
- At-grade crossings
- Minimize disruptions to adjacent agricultural activities

Opportunities:

- Build on previous studies
- Connect to existing and planned trails
- Incorporated historic and educational elements



Project Engagement



PDT/TAC/CAC Meetings

- PDT = Project Development Team
- TAC = Technical Advisory Committee
- CAC = Citizen's Advisory Committee
- Bring together key agency and stakeholder partners responsible for delivering the SPBL Trail Master Plan Update and EIR/EIS project
- PDT met 5/7, 6/9, 7/25, 8/22, and 10/1
- TAC met 6/12 and 8/28
- CAC met 6/18 and 9/9



PDT/TAC/CAC Feedback

- Provide input and data on existing conditions within the Santa Clara River Valley
- Share information about opportunities and constraints along the railroad corridor, such as where fitting new infrastructure along the right-of-way may be challenging or identifying how best to align the trail in certain areas
- Workshop different alignment options and solicit feedback
- Distribute project information to support outreach efforts



Pop-Up Events

- Santa Paula “Cruise Night”
 - September 5
- City of Fillmore Summer Concert Series
 - September 12
- Viva Piru Festival
 - September 20
- Saticoy Farmers Market
 - October 5
- Spreading the word about the project and distributing information
- Overall positive reception



One-on-One Meetings

- Seven meetings held so far, including a tour of the railroad corridor with Sierra Northern Railway
- Caltrans, Assemblymember Bennett, Agriculture Commissioner, Farm Bureau, Ventura County, CoLAB, Newhall Ranch
- Wide range of topics covered, including project history, approval process, stakeholder priorities, agriculture best practices, and local connections
- More meetings in the works



Conceptual Alignment Ideas

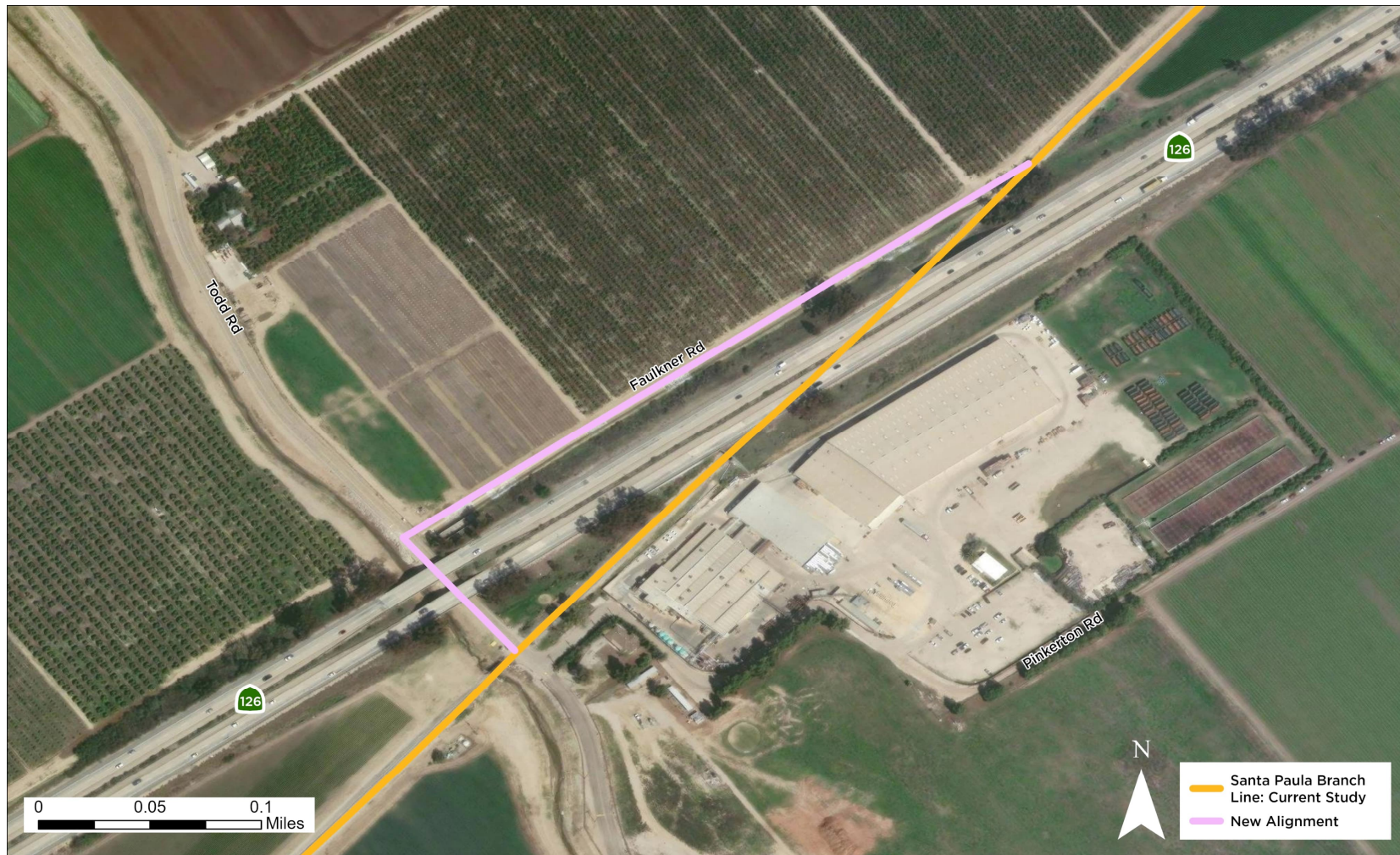
Project Mapping Activity:

Do the lines on the maps best represent where you would like to travel?

What types of features do you want to see along the trail?



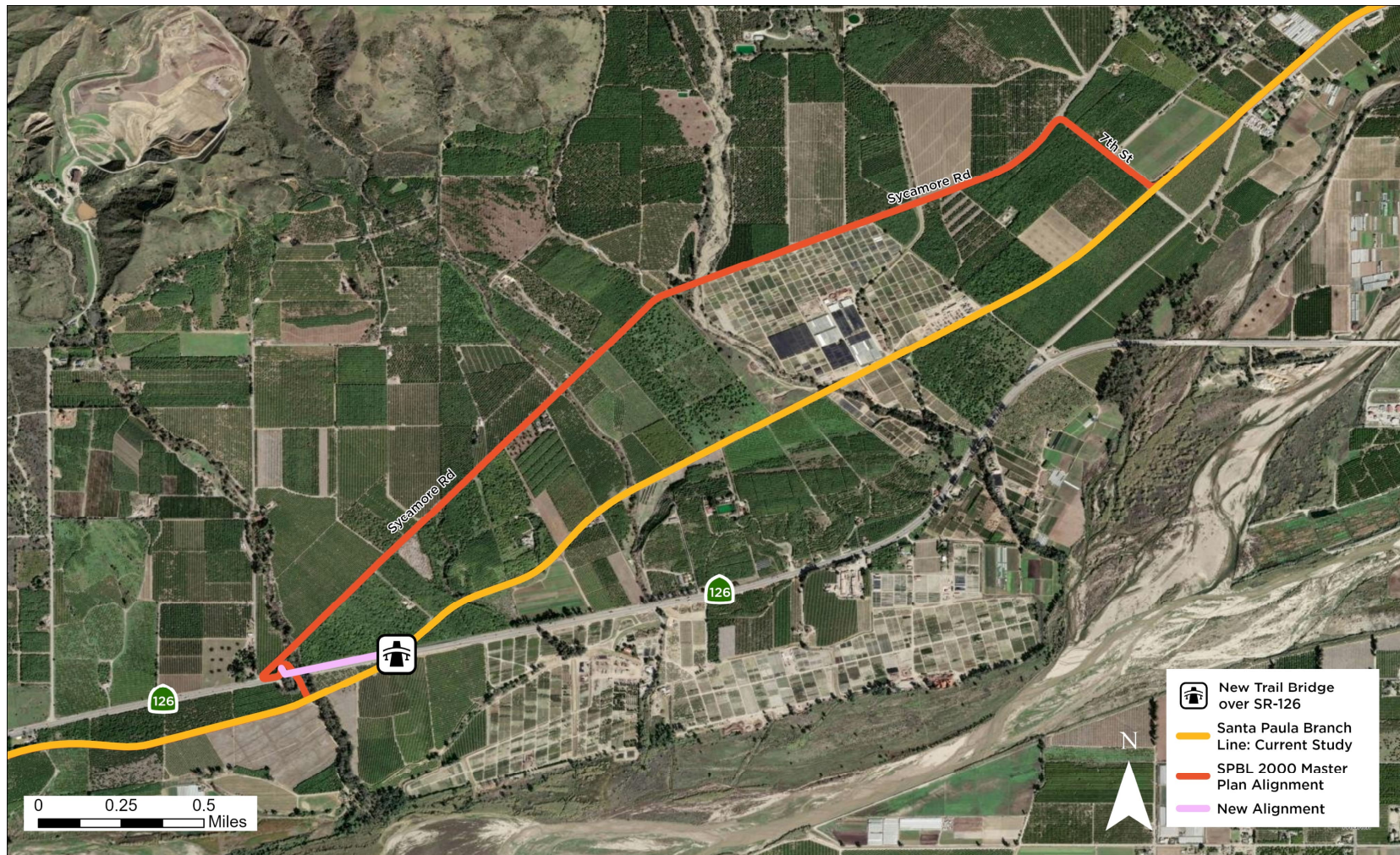
Todd Road Realignment



Harvest at Limoneira Routes



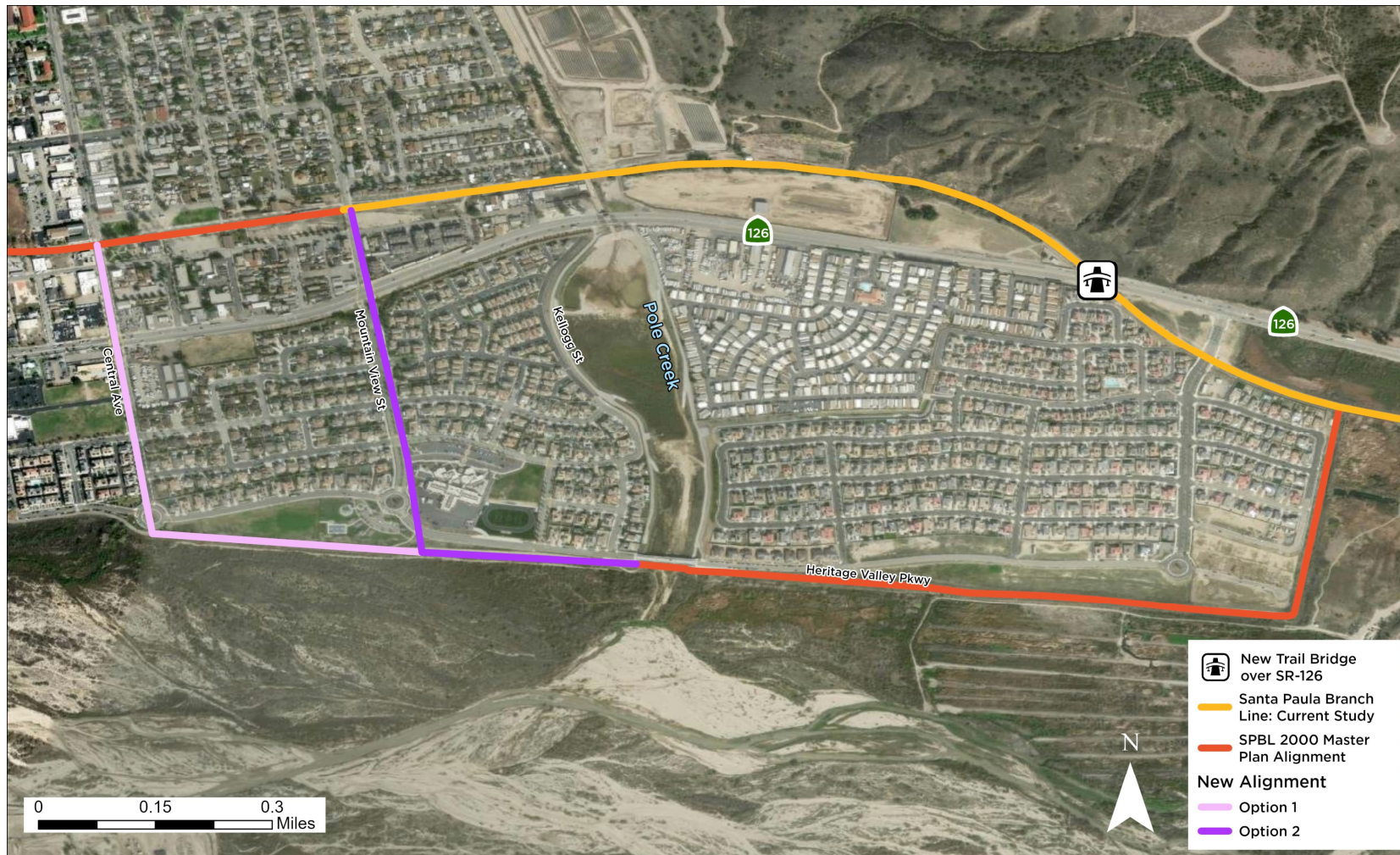
Sycamore Road/7th Street Alignment



Sespe Creek Crossing



Heritage Grove Routes



Piru Creek Crossing



Project Timeline



Project Timeline

- ➡ ① **Existing Conditions:** May – August 2025
- ➡ ② **Conceptual Planning:** July – November 2025
- ➡ ③ **Master Plan:** September – December 2025
- ➡ ④ **Project Definition:** September – December 2025
- ⑤ **Technical Studies:** December 2025 – February 2026
- ➡ ⑥ **Draft EIR/EIS:** February – May 2026
- ⑦ **Final EIR/EIS:** June – November 2026



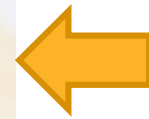
➡ = Opportunity for Engagement

Ways to Get Involved





Stay Engaged



Have ideas later that you want to share? Friends who couldn't make it to the workshop?

Share your thoughts on the future trail, alignments, and areas of interest via our interactive **online Pin Map tool!**

Attend Community Workshop #3

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 – Save the Date!
(Time and location to be announced)

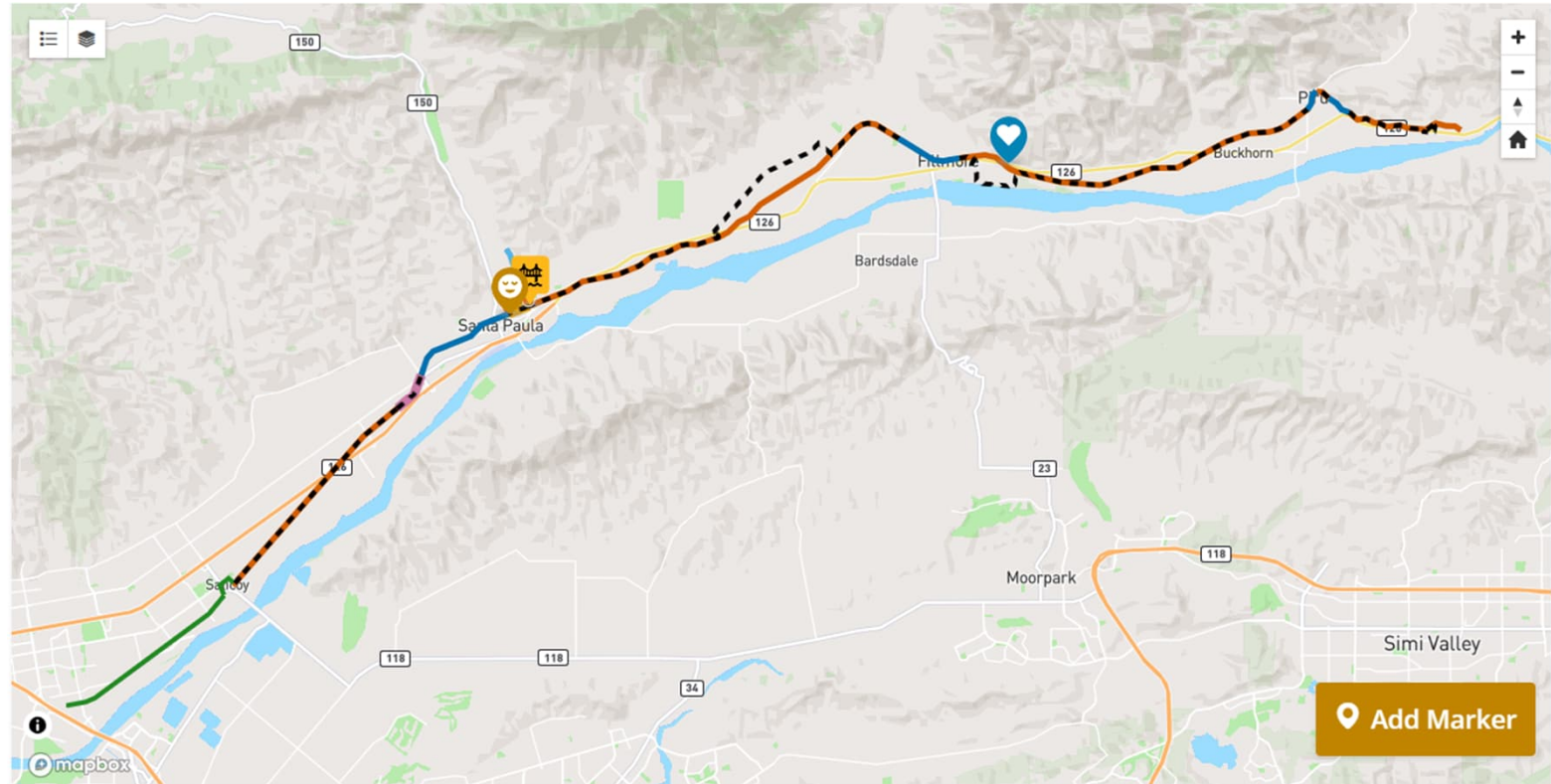


<https://www.goventura.org/spbl-trail-master-plan/>



Virtual Engagement: Pin-Map

- Includes project introduction video in English and Spanish
- Focused on gathering feedback on existing conditions and trail alignment
- Sharing info via website, social media, pop-up events, committee members, and targeted outreach
- Available through the fall

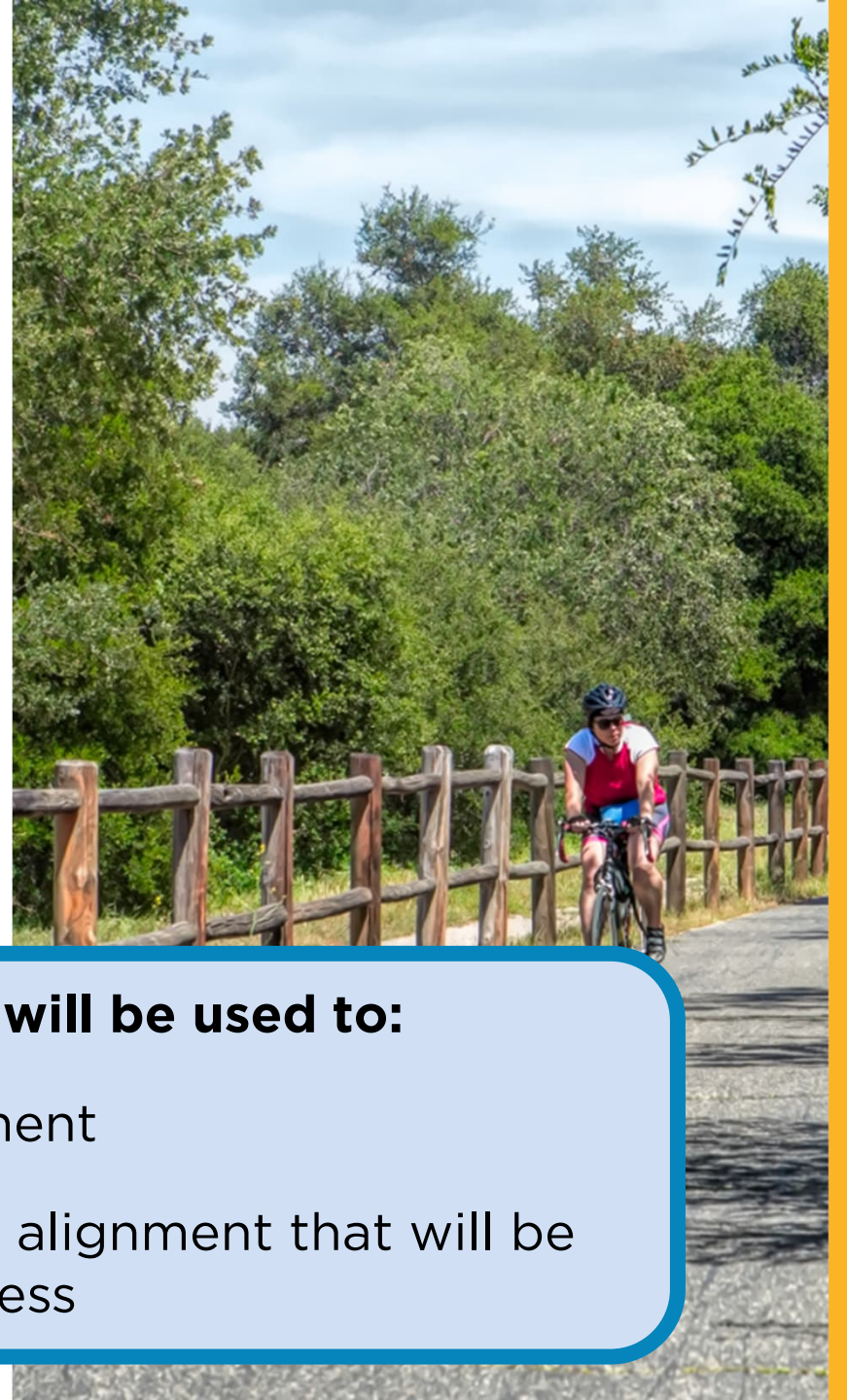


Today's Workshop

- Ask questions and share your thoughts with our project team
- Review the maps:
 - Do the lines on the maps best represent where you would like to travel?
 - What types of features do you want to see along the trail?

Feedback from today's workshop will be used to:

- Continue to inform Master Plan development
- Generate a set of alternatives for the trail alignment that will be studied in the environmental review process



Thank You

