

# EXHIBIT B

## SANTA PAULA BRANCH LINE RAILS WITH TRAILS PROJECT PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROJECT REPORT

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Date

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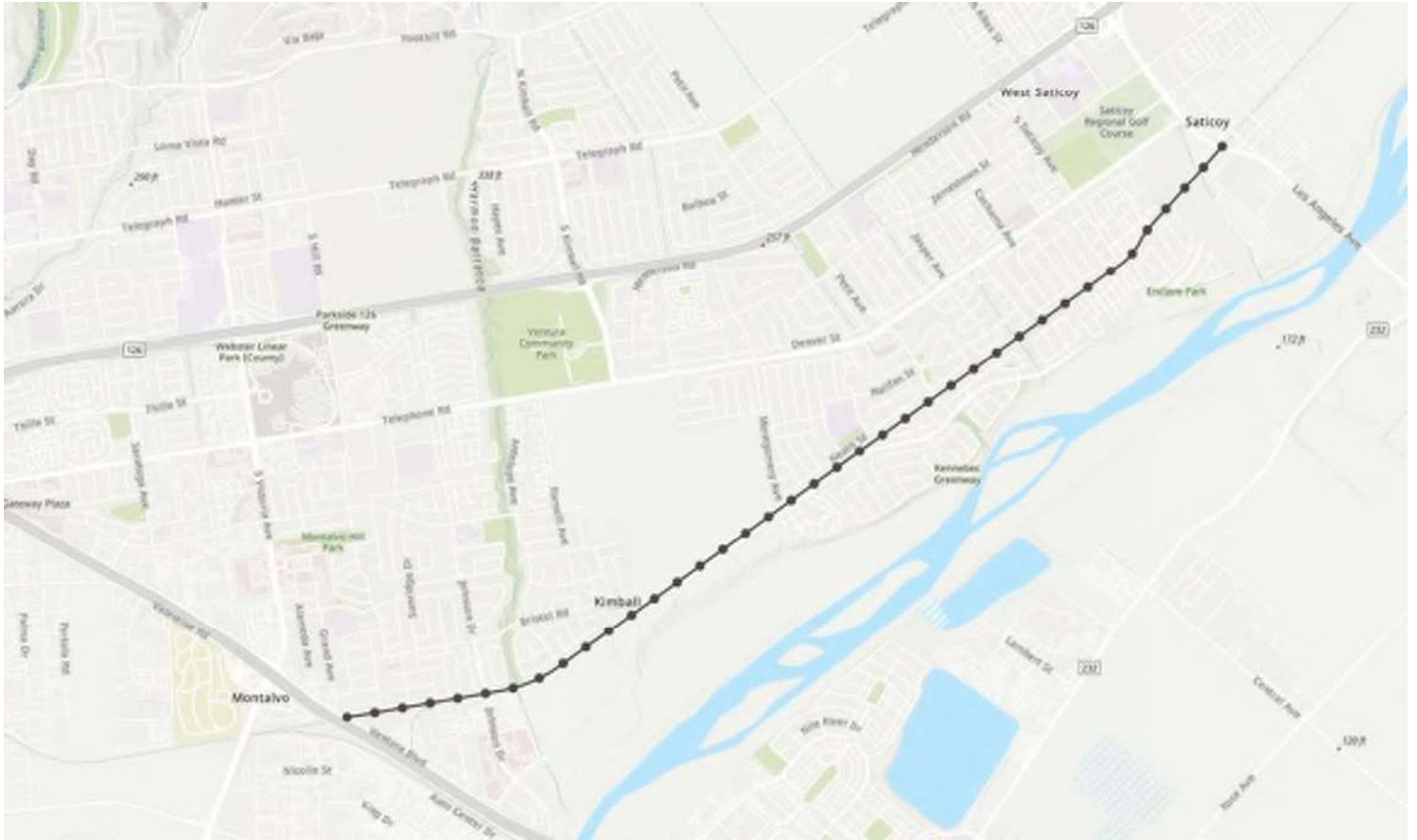
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# VICINITY MAP



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 1995, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) acquired the Santa Paula Branch Line (SPBL) rail corridor with the active participation by the County of Ventura and the Cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, and San Buenaventura. The overall long-term goal for the corridor was to transform it into a multimodal corridor that serves various purposes. The transformation would include accommodating freight rail, as well as providing a multi-use trail for active transportation and recreation purposes. In April 2022, VCTC renewed its goal to build-out the SPBL multi-use trail, with the Commission having adopted a goal to “Reinvigorate the process to complete the multi-use path.” To achieve this goal, the City aims to address challenges associated with constructing a multi-use trail along an active rail line, including coordinating construction activities with ongoing rail operations, obtaining necessary regulatory approvals, and mitigating potential environmental impacts. Furthermore, the renewed commitment in April 2022 reflects the Commission's dedication to enhancing regional connectivity, promoting sustainable transportation options, and fostering recreational opportunities for the communities along the Santa Paula Branch Line corridor.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Santa Paula Branch Line Rails with Trails Project will construct approximately 4-miles of multi-use trail that runs along the railroad between the East Ventura East Metrolink Station and Wells Road. The project consists of constructing the multi-use trail, prefabricated pedestrian bridges, installing High Intensity Activated Crosswalk signals, lighting, public art, trail monuments, drought tolerant landscaping, trail fencing, and other improvements along the trail. The major uses that are anticipated include bicycling, walking, running and roller skating. In addition to the general public the trail will specifically serve the communities of Montalvo, Cabrillo Village, and Saticoy.

The following design alternatives have been identified:

- Alternatives: In response to significant concerns from agricultural interests in agriculture areas, the trail alignment will be in the North or South of the railroad based on lateral buffer design with grading, stormwater impacts, earthwork quantities, and creek impacts.

## CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES

Constructing a new trail alongside an active rail line poses a myriad of challenges that require careful consideration and planning. One significant obstacle is ensuring the safety of both construction workers and trail users in close proximity to moving trains. Coordinating construction activities with the rail schedule is crucial to minimize disruptions and avoid potential accidents. The proximity to the rail line may also necessitate adherence to strict regulatory standards and permits, adding layers of complexity to the approval process. Additionally, the construction process itself may be constrained by limited access points, making the transportation of materials and equipment challenging. Environmental considerations, such as the impact on local flora and fauna, noise pollution, and potential disruption to the rail operations, must also be thoroughly assessed. Balancing the need for a functional trail with the imperative to maintain the integrity and

safety of the active rail line requires comprehensive planning, effective communication with stakeholders, and a thorough understanding of the regulatory landscape.

## ONGOING MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The ongoing maintenance for the proposed project will be done by the City of Ventura.