City of Atascadero to Hold Ribbon Cutting to Signal Completion of New Highway 41 Pathway

The City of Atascadero will hold a ribbon cutting event to signal the completion and partial opening of the newly constructed Highway 41 Pathway on Wednesday, November 2nd at 4:00 pm. The ceremony will take place at the Caltrans pull off area heading southbound towards Morro Bay on Highway 41 approximately 200 yards before San Gabriel Road.

The Highway 41 Pathway project included construction of over a half mile of an 8’ wide detached paved pedestrian and bicycle path along the western edge of Highway 41 between Portola Road and San Gabriel Road. Additional improvements include sidewalk upgrades at the Portola Road and San Gabriel intersections, two new pedestrian bridges and several safety improvements along the Highway 41 roadway edge. While a dirt trail previously existed along this route, this exciting project will provide improved access along this creek corridor for all pathway users.

The City of Atascadero applied for and received a State of California grant for engineering design and associated services in 2013. North Coast Engineering was then hired by the City to complete the engineering design of the project, which included considerable coordination with Caltrans and other permitting agencies. A second state grant was awarded to the City for construction costs with the contract then awarded to Papich Construction in December 2014. Actual construction was delayed through 2015 as a result of nesting birds, but was cleared to move forward in June 2016.

There are a few outstanding items needed to finalize the project and construction activities will not be officially finished until mid-November. Residents can now use and enjoy the pathway, but should expect intermittent closures over the next two weeks and are reminded to pay extra attention when around construction equipment and crews.

For more information, please contact Ryan Hayes, Director of the Public Works Department at 805-470-3456, ndebar@atascadero.org.