

CITY OF ORANGE
City Clerk

Memo – Hot File

To: Santiago Creek Chair Moeller and Commissioners

From: Pamela Coleman, City Clerk *PC*

Date: January 28, 2026

Re: Agenda Item 4.1

The attached memo and exhibit are being provided as an update to the Santiago Creek Multi-Purpose trail project.



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Memo

To: Santiago Creek Commission
From: Christopher Cash, Director of Public Works
Date: January 26, 2026
Re: Update on Santiago Creek Multi-Purpose Trail Project

Project Overview:

The next phase of the Santiago Creek Trail project includes construction of a new multi-purpose trail that will connect to the existing bike trail west of Cannon Street and provide access to Santiago Oaks Regional Park. The new paved Class I bike trail will run parallel to the existing equestrian trail along the southern bank of Santiago Creek and will terminate at the intersection of Santiago Canyon Road and Windes Drive.

In addition, the existing equestrian trail along the north side of Santiago Canyon Road will be enhanced to include a parallel Class I bike trail. A shared bike lane (sharrow) is proposed on Windes Drive to improve bicycle access to Santiago Oaks Regional Park. The existing natural equestrian trail, primarily located along Marbury Avenue, will be preserved in its current condition. (See attached trail alignment map.)

Alignment and Community Coordination:

Due to the new Marbury 22 development located south of Marbury Avenue, the existing decomposed granite trail will be realigned to the south of the development area and will rejoin the original trail alignment at the eastern end of the project site. As an optional component of this project, a bridge is proposed to provide a connection between the two trail segments.

Coordination regarding the proposed trail realignment has been conducted with surrounding homeowner associations and the Orange Park Acres community, and input received through this outreach has been incorporated into the current project plans.

Approvals and Funding:

The project's final trail alignment is contingent upon the acquisition of multiple easements from the County of Orange and adjacent private property owners, as well as completion of an updated environmental impact study.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$11.0 million, which includes expenses associated with right-of-way acquisition (if required), environmental studies, and construction. Over the past several years, the City has successfully secured \$7.5 million in grant funding, including the following:

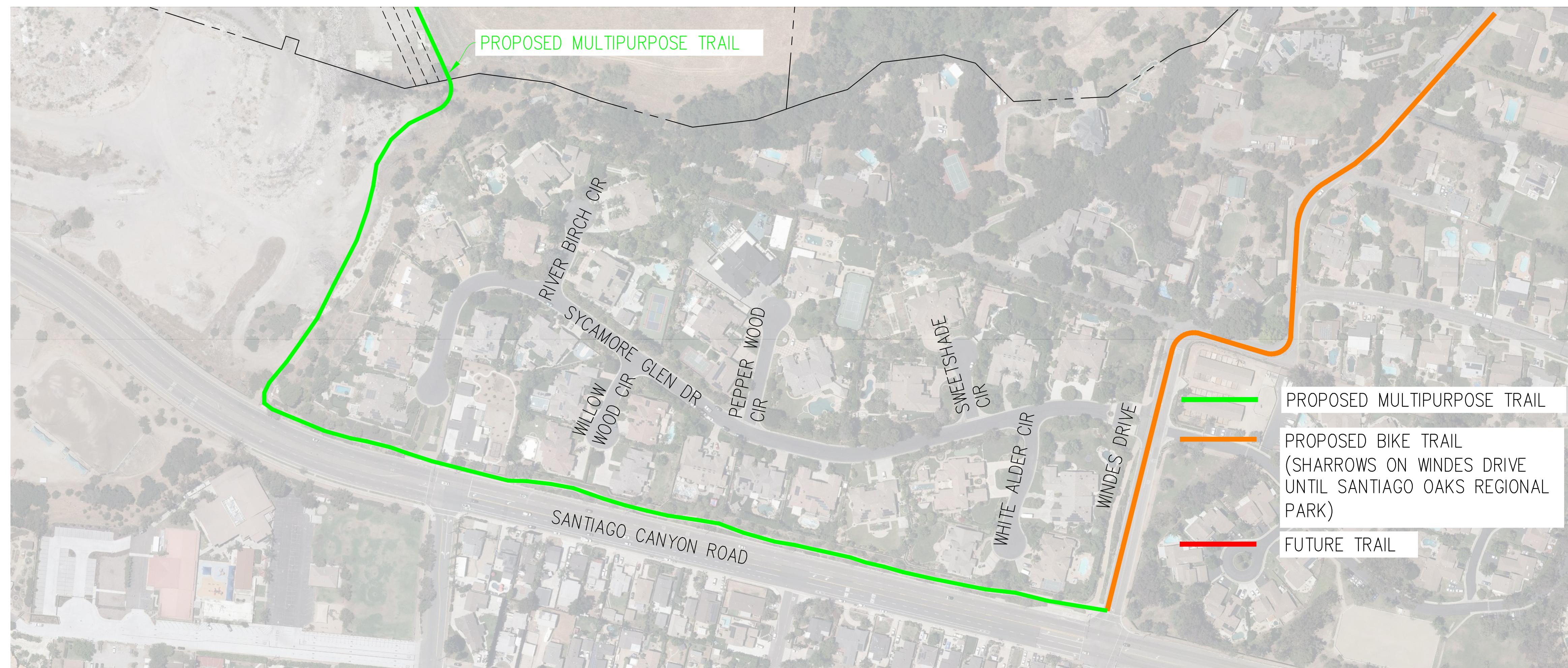
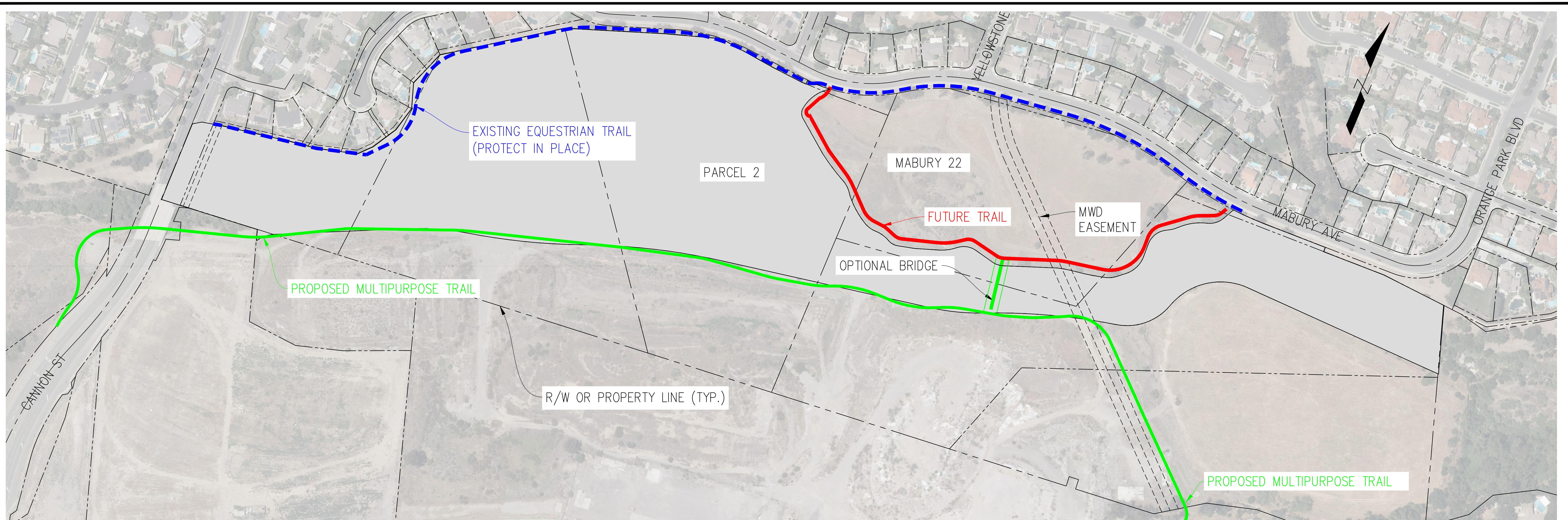


Funding Source	Grant Amount	City's Match	Subtotal
Orange County Complete Street Program	\$4,904,000	\$669,000	\$5,573,000
Active Transportation Program	\$2,302,000	\$0	\$2,302,000
Bicycle CIP Grant	\$345,794	\$97,000	\$442,794

We are actively pursuing additional grant opportunities to cover the remaining costs.

Phasing and Timing of Project:

- **Revised environmental impact study:** Anticipated completion by the end of calendar year 2026.
- **Easements, primary design, and right-of-way acquisition:** Expected to begin in early 2027 and conclude by the end of calendar year 2027.
- **Secure remaining project funding and complete final design:** Spring 2028.
- **Construction:** Anticipated to begin in Summer/Fall 2028, with an estimated construction duration of approximately six months.



PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

CITY OF ORANGE

OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER

IMPROVEMENT PLANS
SANTIAGO CREEK BIKE TRAIL NORTH
FROM CANNON STREET TO SANTIAGO OAKS REGIONAL PARK

SITE PLAN

FOR ENGINEER'S USE		APPROVED:		APPROVED:	
DATE DRAWN	NAME EMP	DATE 10/17/25	CITY ENGINEER	DATE 10/17/25	PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
DESIGNED	NAME EMP	DATE 10/17/25	HORIZ. AS NOTED	VERT. AS NOTED	F.B. PG.
CHECKED	NAME RN	DATE 10/17/25	SCALE:		SHEET 03 OF 47 SHEETS