



News Release

RELEASE DATE: March 18, 2010
CONTACT: Todd Muck, Principal Transportation Planner
PHONE: 831-775-4407
E-MAIL: todd@tamcmonterey.org

NEW BIKE AND WALKING TRAIL CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT CARMEL VALLEY ROAD/HIGHWAY 1

Construction of a new bicycle and pedestrian trail between Carmel Valley and Rio roads is scheduled to begin next week and be completed by August. The trail project begins just north of Carmel Valley Road, parallels Highway 1 along the back side of the Barnyard Shopping Center, and terminates at Rio Road. A major feature of the trail project is the construction of a lighted underpass beneath Carmel Valley Road near the Highway 1 intersection.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is constructing this trail and pedestrian/bicycle tunnel on behalf of California State Parks. The project will improve non-motorized mobility in the area and enhance public access to State Parks property.

The new trail is part of a larger regional trail system already in place or being planned for future use called the Carmel River Parkway Plan. The pathway segment, known as part of the "Carmel Hill and River Bicycle Trail" project, will consist of a 12-foot wide paved bicycle trail, a 4-foot wide shoulder of decomposed granite along one side for pedestrian use, and a lighted underpass. Concurrently, the Big Sur Land Trust will be constructing a path segment from Rio Road to the Carmel River. That project is anticipated to begin in late March and be completed in May.

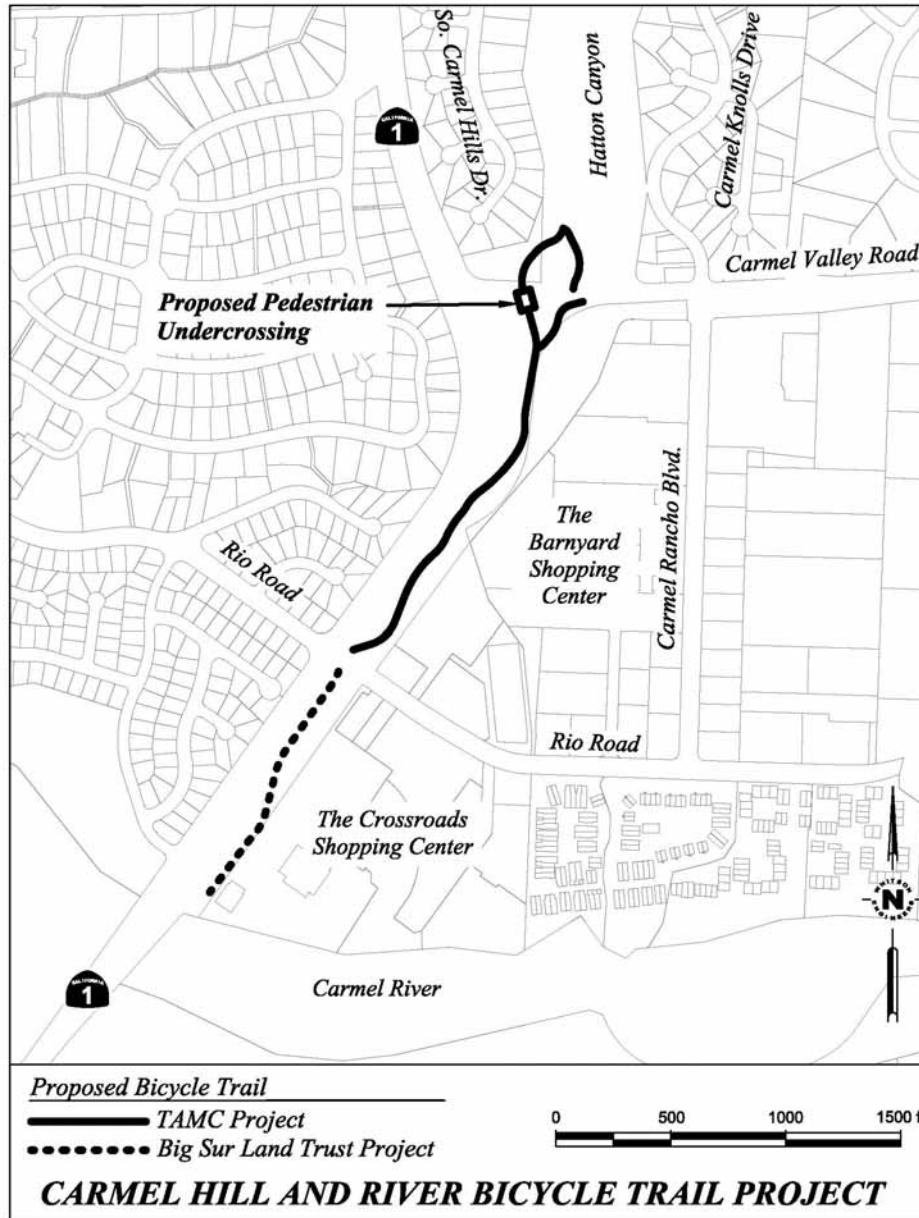


News Release

During the underpass construction period, Carmel Valley Road will be narrowed to one traffic lane in each direction. Additionally, one of the current two left-turn lanes from Highway 1 onto Carmel Valley Road will be closed. Traffic slowdowns should be expected for approximately 6 weeks during April and May. Bicyclists using Highway 1 and going toward Carmel Valley, or traveling westward on Carmel Valley Road, will be directed to use Rio Road and Carmel Rancho Boulevard. Construction is scheduled to start on next week; as work progresses, updated scheduling will be posted on the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) website and information will also be available by calling the TAMC office.

Cost of the path and underpass segment is approximately \$1.2 million. Project partners include Caltrans, TAMC, California State Parks, Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey Regional Park District. A map of the trail segment, as well as additional information about the project, schedules and updates, and maps showing the regional bicycle and pedestrian trail system are available on the TAMC website at www.tamcmonterey.org or by contacting Todd Muck, TAMC project manager at (831) 775-4407 or emailing to todd@tamcmonterey.org.

#



###

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is responsible for investing in regional transportation projects for Monterey County residents, businesses and visitors. The mission of TAMC is to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environment quality and economic activities in Monterey County. For more information visit www.tamcmonterey.org or call 831.775.0903.