



01 **PROJECT OVERVIEW**



FORTAG will become both a regional transportation corridor as well as a recreational attraction, allowing trail users of all ages and abilities safe, continuous access to open space and major destinations.

OVERVIEW

FORTAG will be a multi-use trail in northwestern Monterey County, generally surrounding the cities of Seaside, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Marina and the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus. The project is led by the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC).

FORTAG includes approximately 27 miles of new paved trail, primarily on the inland side of State Route 1 (SR 1). The trail will be built for ADA compliance to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists of all abilities. It will also accommodate equestrians within select areas. Dogs will be allowed on-leash throughout the system.

In order for FORTAG to serve as many users as possible, it will need to not only be a functional, safe, and accessible facility, but will also need to convey a strong design intent, that highlights the surrounding landscape, presents a coherent identity, and helps convey to users that this is a world-class facility.

The majority of the trail will be 12 feet wide with a 2 feet wide unpaved shoulder on both sides. A small portion of the trail (approximately 2,000 feet or one percent) will be developed on existing paved roadways in two locations: in Del Rey Oaks on Angelus Way, between Rosita Road and Del Rey Gardens; and in Marina on Beach Road, between Del Monte Boulevard and De Forest Road. Where space allows, the trail will be surrounded by an open space greenway buffer on both sides. Portions of the greenway will include unpaved paths for use by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and naturalists.

The vision of Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) has been carried on several fronts by many people. Founded as a grassroots effort and supported by voters in Measure X, the trail began with the Open Space Link in the Base Reuse Plan, then named the Beach to BLM trail, and was later expanded and charted by Fred Watson and Scott Waltz with over 360 meetings with over 200 individuals and organizations.

For the purposes of phased development and conceptual design treatments, FORTAG has been divided into seven major segments.

This document provides design concepts and guidance for FORTAG as a whole, as well as recommendations for specific segments and contexts throughout the overall corridor.



Fred Watson and Scott Waltz, Professors, California State University Monterey Bay, and FORTAG advocates.

PROJECT LOCATION

FORTAG will be located in northwestern Monterey County, traversing sections of the cities of Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, and Marina, as well as unincorporated Monterey County. The trail travels through several city parks. Portions of the alignment are within or adjacent to areas managed by CSUMB, the U.S. Army, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the University of California Santa Cruz, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. Portions of the alignment are within the California Coastal Zone.

The Trail will connect to the existing Coastal Recreation Trail, portions of which are under the jurisdiction of California State Parks, and the North Fremont Bicycle and Pedestrian Project in Monterey. The FORTAG system's connections to the existing Coastal Rec Trail will form continuous trail circuits, but the FORTAG project will not involve any direct modifications to the Coastal Rec Trail.

The proposed alignment, when combined with Coastal Rec Trail, will generally form three loops that encircle the City of Marina, the CSUMB campus, and the City of Seaside, respectively (see map on the following page).

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of FORTAG is to provide an accessible multi-use path for recreation and active transportation for residents and visitors.

FORTAG supports the following objectives:

1. Function as an active transportation artery for commuting and recreation, providing a safe, accessible, and separated alternative to motorized travel that reduces vehicle trips and associated emissions.
2. Connect people to open space and recreational activities from their homes, workplaces, and hospitality bases.
3. Enhance connections between Fort Ord, Monterey Peninsula, and Salinas Valley communities, and provide additional opportunities for physical exercise and stress reduction for residents and visitors.
4. Utilize built trails and roadways where possible to minimize impact to the natural environment while maintaining gentle grades and providing access to viewpoints.
5. Provide interpretative and educational opportunities for trail users to experience and learn about the historic military use of the former Fort Ord, biological and other natural resources, and the Monterey Bay coast.
6. Utilize public lands where possible and encourage the incorporation of the Trail into planning and future development.
7. Create economic benefits from associated retail, hospitality, and competitive events.

