

## Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants

### Orange Blossom Trail/East Valley Citrus Heritage Linear Park and Trail

- **Grant Amount:** \$68,300
- **Grant Recipient:** City of Redlands
- **Sub-recipient:** County of San Bernardino
- **County:** San Bernardino

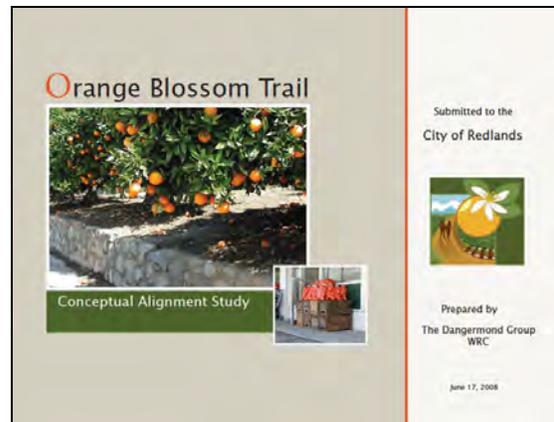
**Project Area** – Portions of the AT&SF railroad corridor and the historic Zanja irrigation channel in the communities of Redlands and Mentone.

**Project Focus** – The Project will serve as the only non-vehicular connection between both sides of the I-10 freeway that bisect the City of Redlands. This will serve as a critical linkage between growing residential areas in the northern and eastern parts of the city, with growing employment and shopping areas in the western portion, and Redlands' Historic Downtown Center. The City of Redlands General Plan Environmental Impact Report (1994) stated that traffic in the region surrounding Redlands is projected to increase by nearly 50% between 1994 and 2010. Local transit does not appear to accommodate a large percentage of either total daily or peak-hour travel in the project areas. The relatively flat valley portion of Redlands, with about two-thirds of the Planning Area's potential residents and almost all of its jobs, is attractive for both bicycle commuters and recreational riders.

**Project Goals** – The purpose of the project is to create a 7.5 -mile multi-use trail through the communities of Redlands and Mentone. The trail will

provide a safe, non-motorized connection of current and future residential areas in these communities with their education, shopping and employment centers, and the future Metrolink light rail extension to Redlands. In addition to the multi-modal transportation benefits, the Project will serve to convert an abandoned rail ROW into a valuable linear open space corridor that traverses much of Redlands from east to west. The ROW is frequently used now as a walking route to schools and other destinations. The Orange Blossom trail will connect at each end with the Santa Ana River Trail (SART), a major recreational trail in Southern California providing linkage to surrounding park and open space areas, including the future Santa Ana River Wash Regional Park.

**Community Outreach** – Public participation in the project was sought by the project's proponents by staffing a booth at the weekly Redlands Market Night to provide information and survey individuals on their potential use of the trail. Two public workshops were conducted where participants at both workshops demonstrated strong support of the trail.



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The first workshop included an overview of the project and a discussion of potential constraints. Proposed alternatives were presented at the second workshop where the alternatives were well received.

**Project Outcome-** The Orange Blossom Trail Master Plan is designed to assist the City of Redlands in creating a trail corridor that will be an asset to the community for decades to come. Integrating the trail into the community

by utilizing traffic calming measures which also integrates landscaping and art will increase safety and the flow of traffic on the trail and the roadway and beautify the city without stretching the maintenance budget beyond reasonable limits. As a bonus, this approach will be competitive in attracting much coveted grant funding. This would be consistent with the Bikeways section of the Redlands General Plan.

### Challenges

- Provide users with safe crossing points at twenty-six intersections along the trail.
- Connect through pinch points at the Zanja Creek as it crosses Alabama St. and along the Metrolink tracks.

### Successes

- By approving the San Bernardino Non-motorized bicycle plan, and approving the Orange Blossom Trail as an addendum to that plan, will qualify the Orange Blossom Trail for state and federal funding. This plan has focused heavily on developing a trail design that will qualify it for these programs as well as providing a safe facility for multiple user types.