

Bridging to the Future

PRADO ROAD BRIDGE WIDENING

The City of San Luis Obispo is replacing the Prado Road Bridge over San Luis Creek with a wider structure that will add improvements to provide safe access to drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, better accommodate creek flow, and accommodate anticipated traffic for years to come. The project will include multi-modal improvements to South Higuera at Prado and at Elks Lane as well.

Planned for construction in 2024, the Prado Road Bridge Widening Project improvements will pave the way for a brighter, more bustling southern district of SLO. This project sets the stage for an even larger future endeavor: the long-planned Prado Road Interchange Project, a critical infrastructure project that will provide a new crossing over US 101 between Madonna Road and Los Osos Valley Road.

LOCATION

Prado Road, between US 101 at Elks Lane and South Higuera St.



PROJECT DURATION

Design: To be completed in December 2023

Construction: 2 years, anticipated to start in Summer 2024

PROJECT SCHEDULE

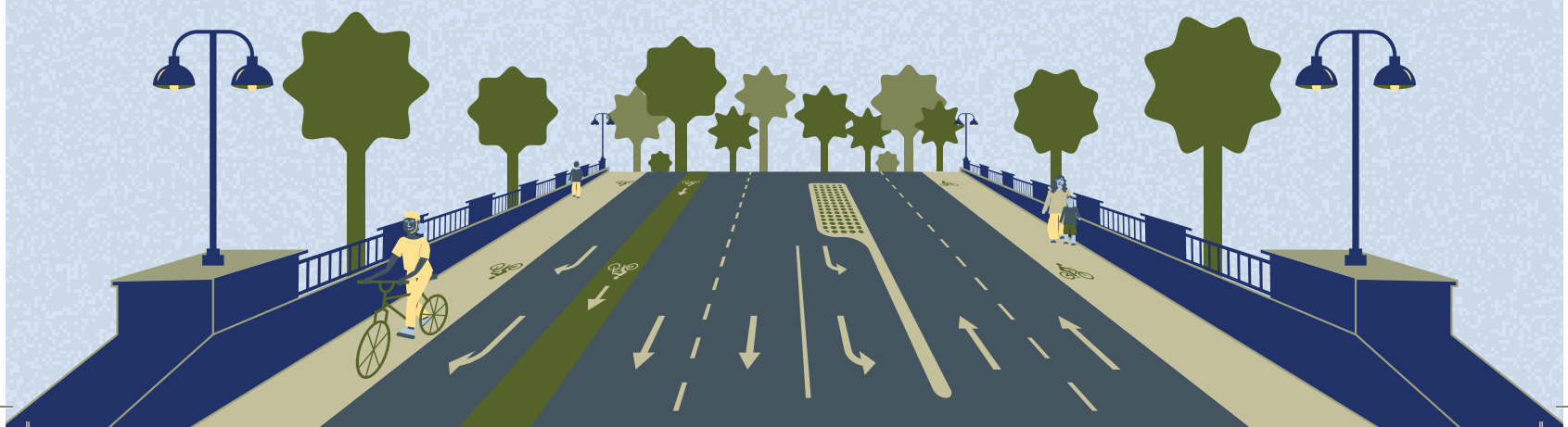
Environmental Documents:	Summer 2022
Right of Way Certification:	2023
Final Plans:	December 2023
Begin Construction:	Summer 2024
End Construction:	Fall 2026

PROJECT COST & FUNDING

Total Cost: \$24 million

FUNDING:

Caltrans Highway Bridge Program:	\$6 million
City of San Luis Obispo (tax revenue):	\$18 million



PROJECT DESCRIPTION & NEED

This project provides the opportunity to plan for the future using state-of-the-art infrastructure and forward-thinking design.

The existing two-lane Prado Road Bridge over San Luis Obispo Creek is currently structurally deficient and has no bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Traffic studies also indicate that the bridge is not wide enough to accommodate existing and projected future traffic demands.

This project would replace the existing bridge with a wider, four-lane bridge with shoulders, additional turn lanes, protected bike lanes, and sidewalks. This means a safer, more accessible route for local businesses, residents, commuters, and visitors into the future.

A noise barrier or “sound wall” will also be constructed to reduce noise levels from vehicle traffic as heard from the adjacent mobile home residential units.

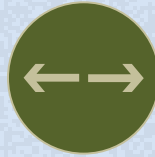
During the bridge removal and construction phase this project will require closure of the bridge and detours will be created. A new temporary signal at Elks Lane and S. Higuera Street will also be installed.

We will temporarily move and then relocate the existing adjacent Bob Jones Bike Trail bridge and trailhead statue to a slightly different on-site location as part of this project. A temporary trail connection will allow continued trail use during the project.

The City will proactively communicate to those impacted by the closure, through methods such as direct outreach, the City’s website, regular eblasts, signage and through the local media. This project will be primarily funded through both local City and Caltrans’ Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds.

PROJECT FEATURES

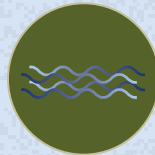
Some key details of the project include:



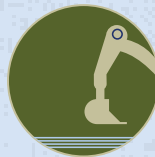
Construction of a wider bridge designed to meet vehicular and multi-modal needs into the future



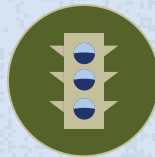
Safety improvements including shoulders and protected pedestrian/ bicycle paths for travel over the bridge and at the S. Higuera intersection



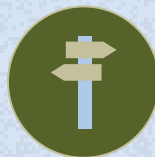
Increased channel opening under the bridge which will improve creek flow capacity



Undergrounding of overhead utilities in the project area for safety and aesthetics



Installation of a temporary traffic signal at S. Higuera and Elks Ln. with pedestrian and bicycle friendly crossings to facilitate detours during construction



Realignment of the Bob Jones Trail bridge and the existing trailhead statue “Oh Great Spirit” to accommodate the bridge widening while preserving access to the trail throughout construction

For more information, visit slocity.org/prado or contact Project Manager Wyatt Banker-Hix at wbanker@slocity.org.

