ML14051 / AB2766 2014 MSRC Clean Transportation Grant Final Report City of Brea The Tracks at Brea Bicycle Trail February 6, 2018

Prepared for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review Committee (MSRC) under the AB 2766 Discretionary Fund Work Program

Acknowledgements

The completion of Segments 2 and 3 of The Tracks at Brea required collaboration between City of Brea, Orange County Transportation Authority, Orange County Health Care Agency, Orange County Flood Control District, Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants, David Evans & Associates, Union Pacific Railroad, and the Brea Historical Society.

Funder for this project: Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Department of Housing and Community Development, California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and the California Transportation Commission.

This report was submitted in fulfillment of ML14051 and The Tracks at Brea Bicycle Trail by City of Brea under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). All work was completed as of December 20, 2017.

Disclaimer

The statement and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported herein is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.





The Tracks at Brea Bicycle Trail

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Project Description & Work Performed

Background and Purpose

Located in North Orange County, "The Tracks at Brea" project, developed by the City of Brea over a ten-year period, transformed a blighted abandoned railroad corridor into a beautiful, sustainable active transportation route. This trail is a space where bicycles and pedestrians can be safely away from vehicles to enjoy butterfly gardens, attractive bioswales, nine fitness stations, restrooms, bike repair stations, or to learn about local history and water conservation.

The abandoned railroad right-of-way that was transformed into a 50-acre linear park, traversing the City across four miles would have been unsuitable for any other type of development. Not only was the cost prohibitive for any developer due to soil contamination, the property width, adjacent land use and location was not practical for other use. The City took the initiative of combining City funding along with \$17.5 million in grant awards to acquire, design and construct the much needed community trail.

The Tracks at Brea Trail is within ¼ mile of seven K-8 schools, Downtown Brea, Brea Mall, Boys and Girls Club, Senior Center, Community Center, several parks, and mass transit. The trail benefits the entire community with increased access to employment and popular attractions, enhanced mobility, reduced car-dependency and improved quality of life. Further, the trail is a link in the 66- mile countywide OC loop creating an amenity that benefits the entire Orange County region.

The MSRC grant contributed funding toward two segments of the 4-mile trail. Located just north of Downtown Brea, Segment 2 consists of almost four acres and is about 1/4 mile in length. Segment 3, which is the central hub of the trail, is made up of thirteen acres and a little over ¾ mile in length.

Scope and Work Performed:

<u>Developed Construction Plans</u>: Both Trail Segment 2 and Segment 3 construction plans were completed by landscape architects David Evans and Associates.

<u>Select Construction Contractors</u>: The construction contract for Segment 3 was awarded in July 2014 via a Public Works bid process. The construction contract for Segment 2 was awarded in December 2016 as via a Public Works bid process.

<u>Soil Preparation Construction</u>: The local regulatory agency, Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), approved the Remedial Action Workplans. Each segment was then graded and backfilled with clean import soil where necessary.

<u>Trail Construction</u>: Trail Segment 3's construction was completed in March 2016 and the trail opened to the public in March 2016 with a community event. Trail Segment 2's construction began in February 2017 and opened to the public in December 2017.

<u>Trail Features:</u> Native and drought-tolerant plants are emphasized in the landscape design of the trail. Interpretive signage is being placed in along the trail to educate the public about water conservation, low water landscaping, and butterflies, as well as the history of Brea.

Problems Encountered

<u>Concerned Neighbors:</u> While the City did a great deal of outreach to residents and almost everyone was supportive, there were a few neighbors directly adjacent to the future trail who had concerns. They were worried about the trail attracting the homeless, loss of privacy, and potential flooding from the trail. City staff was very responsive and spent a significant amount of time talking to these residents and educating them about the plans. Staff assured residents that the City would address issues if they proved to be a problem once construction was completed. Because the trail was engineered properly and designed beautifully, the concerns were eliminated once the trail was opened.

<u>Cost:</u> The cost of the construction was higher than estimated on Segment 3. Therefore, the City eliminated features from the initial design in the hopes of adding the items later. The City was able to open a "bare bones" Segment 3 trail to the public in March 2016. In the meantime, an additional grant was obtained to cover the costs of the amenities that had been eliminated. In December 2017, the City was able to add signs, butterfly gardens, a seating area, restroom, fitness equipment, drinking fountain, an ADA ramp from parking lot to these amenities.

Emissions Benefits

This project is a critical step towards creating a continuous bikeway network and alternative transportation route through North Orange County and adjacent counties. It also creates a bicycle-friendly community in Brea while promoting an environmentally sustainable method of transportation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, thus providing a greener and safer city.

This trail project reduces total emissions by 27 pounds per year, or 540 pounds over the 20-year life span of the project. This includes a reduction of 240 pounds of carbon monoxide (CO), 160 pounds of reactive organic gases (ROG), 20 pounds particulate matter with diameter 10 micrometers or less (PM10) and 140 pounds of oxides of nitrogen (NOx). The project, while still new, could also reduce 14,830 motor vehicle trips annually.

Photographs and Outreach

Photographs

Trail Segment 3

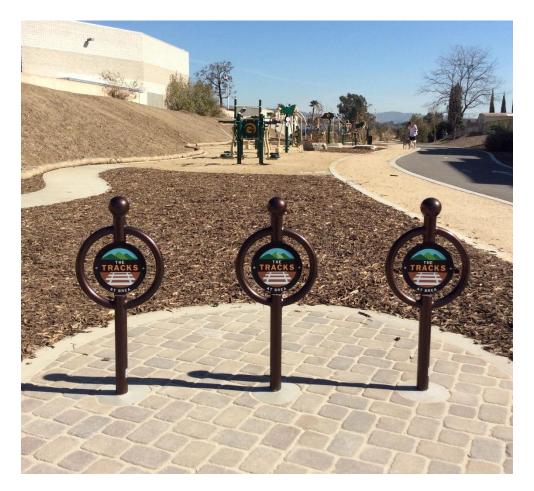












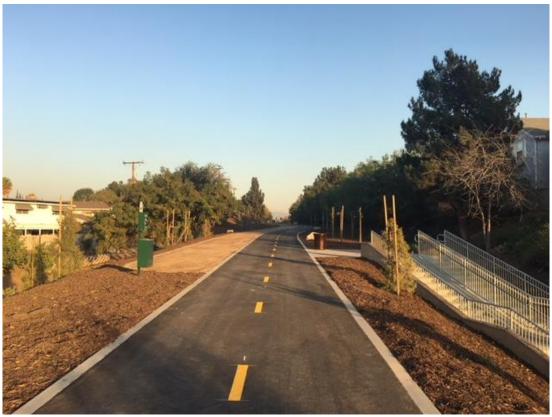


Trail Segment 2

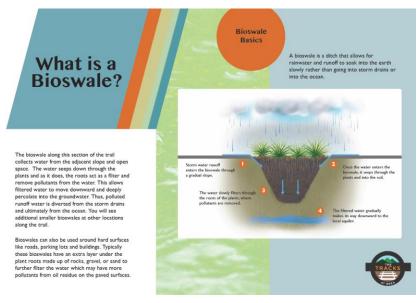








Examples of Freestanding Educational Signage on Segment 2







Outreach

Public outreach has been an ongoing and continuous part of the trail project since 2010. Not only has the City shared concept plans and sought feedback and suggestions throughout the design process, public outreach has also included a quarterly newsletter sent to a trail "interest list"; articles in the bimonthly citywide newsletter; city website updates, updates on social media; meetings with the public, emails and phone call responses.

- <u>Website</u>: Timely updates posted on the City's website.
- <u>City Newsletters</u>: Information about the trail project is included in articles and photos in the printed City's newsletter (mailed to all Brea addresses).
- Quarterly Trail Newsletters: The City maintains an email list of those who want to follow the trail projects' progress. A trail newsletter is emailed quarterly to about 200 households and is also printed and available at the Civic Center, Community Center, and Senior Center.
- <u>Informational Mailing</u>: The surrounding residents and businesses located near the trail received printed information and updates about the construction.
- <u>Social Media</u>: The City has maintained a Twitter account and Facebook page with trail project updates. The Twitter account was closed in mid-2017 since it was used infrequently.
- <u>Parks and Recreation Commission</u>: Frequent trail updates are provided at monthly commission meetings which are open to the public.
- Meeting about the Construction: A community meeting was held in May 2014 to obtain feedback on the construction of the site. A community meeting was also held in August 2015 and February 2017 before the construction work commenced for Segment 3 and Segment 2, respectively.
- Grand Opening: A grand opening celebration was held in March 2016 for Segment 3.
- <u>"Experience The Tracks" Community Event</u>: In May 2017, in partnership with SCAG, Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), the Brea high school advisory group, the City held a trail event to bring awareness to the trail. Before the event, OCHCA gave helmets to low-income youth who live adjacent to the trail. The event had free bike rentals, several booths and giveaways, a bike rodeo, and furniture "pop-ups" throughout.
- A celebrate the trail activity is being planned for May 2018 when all four miles of the trail will be open.

Residents are enthusiastic about the trail project and use of the trail is high. Some residents have even said that what they love most about Brea is the new trail.

The MSRC has been acknowledged as a funding partner in the project in various ways: City website, trail map, citywide newsletter, trail newsletters, social media (Facebook), and signage on the property.

The following pages include the current trail map (soon to be improved), grant funders of the trail (appears on City website), excerpt pages from The Tracks newsletters, and a new articles.





The Orange County (OC) Loop is a vision for a 66-mile, mostly off-road path, for biking and walking that improves quality of life, supports freedom from car-dependency, and promotes healthy living.

The Tracks at Brea Trail is part of the **Union Pacific ROW Trail** section.

www.octa.net/Bike/The-OC-Loop/



BARGAIN HUNT

The thrill of the hunt is more fun in person!

STRETCH YOUR LEGS

156
calories per hour of shopping.

CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

Run into friends and family... accidentally or on purpose! TRY BEFORE

Know what you're getting without waiting for shipping.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

For every dollar you spend, 1¢ of the sales tax goes to the City to support city services like Police, Fire, Parks, and many more!

Every penny counts!

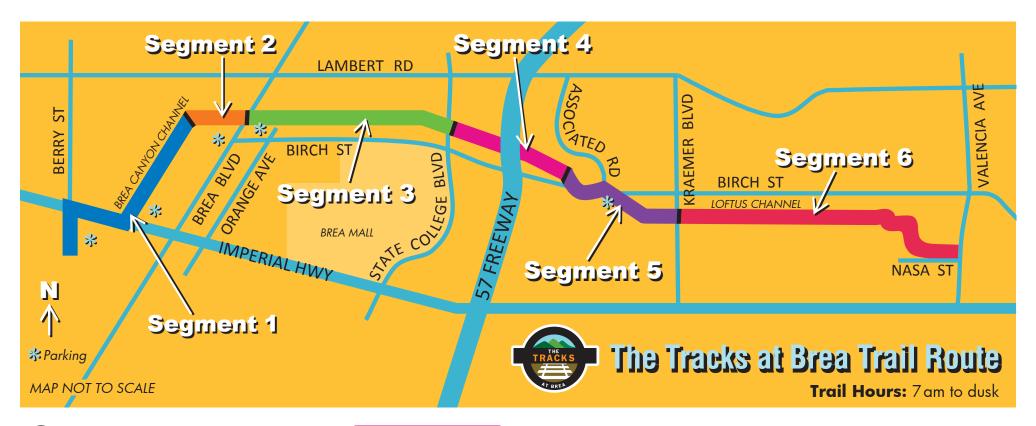








www.cityofbrea.net/TheTracks





Segment 1:

0.6 mi

Travels through Arovista Park, crosses Imperial Highway at Berry Street signal and continues north along the flood control channel west of Downtown.

Segment 2:

0.3 mi

Travels east from the Brea Canyon Flood Control Channel to Brea Blvd. Construction underway - anticipated to open Fall 2017.



Segment 3:

0.8 mi

Travels east from Brea Blvd. to State College.

Additional amenities anticipated to be added by Fall 2017.

Trail parking available at Arovista Park, Downtown parking structures 1 and 2, Brea Blvd. trailhead, Orange Ave. trail entry, and Birch Hills Golf Course.

Segment 4:

0.7 mi

Travels from State College under the 57 Freeway to Birch Street. Construction anticipated to begin Fall 2017.



Segment 5:

0.6 mi

Travels from Birch Street through Birch Hills Golf Course to Kraemer Blvd. Gates close at dusk.

Segment 6:

0.9 mi

Travels from Kraemer Blvd. along the Loftus Flood Control Channel to Surveyor Ave. and then south to Nasa St. and along the dirt path adjacent to Suzuki Motor Corporation east to Valencia Ave. where it connects to the La Floresta perimeter trail. Construction underway and anticipated to open Fall 2017.

Note: Distances are approximate.

Funders

California Department of Housing and Community
Development

California Department of Parks and Recreation

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

California Transportation Commission

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee
National Park Service

Strategic Growth Council

U.S. Department of Interior

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Partners

Orange County Health Care Agency
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)
Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Suzuki Motor Corporation

Western Realco

Supporters Paving the Way for Brea Trails

The City of Brea would like to thank our many supporters of The Tracks at Brea trail, including Brea residents, particularly those who served on The Trails Task Force, attended workshops or public meetings, completed a survey, or provided ideas in any way. The Trail has also benefited from the support of the City Council; Parks, Recreation, and Human Services Commission; Planning Commission; Senior Center Leadership Council; Brea Student Advisory Board; County Supervisor Shawn Nelson; and Congressman Ed Royce. During the construction, the patience and support of residents and businesses adjacent to the trail is appreciated.

State and Federal Agencies Providing Funding



























Local Supporters

These organizations have supported the trail with encouragement, collaboration, and support letters to our grant applications.



















A big THANK YOU to all helping
The Tracks at Brea become a reality!



February 2014 Trail Update

Good News: The Tracks at Brea trail has been awarded two more grants! A total of 18 grants have now been received for this project resulting in over \$7.9 million. The two most recent grants are:

- \$450,000 from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee's (MSRC) Clean Transportation Funding; and
- \$999,272 from the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program using federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

While this is excellent news, Federal and State grants have numerous requirements before construction can begin. The good news is *The Tracks* recently received approval from the State on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which ensures the City will preserve any historical and archaeological artifacts found during construction. However, two additional authorizations are still required for the trail segment along the Loftus Channel (Segment 6):

- Approval from the Orange County Flood Control District; and
- Approval of a detailed report that is underway describing how the environment will be impacted and protected for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As soon as NEPA compliance notification is received, the public works bid process to select the contractor for trail construction on Segment 6 (see map) will begin. The selection of a contractor for soil remediation on Segment 3 (see map) will also be out to bid soon.

Meanwhile, the trail is being designed by landscape architects David Evans & Associates for Segment 3 and more grants are being sought to fund all portions of the 4-mile trail. Additionally, four grant applications are pending which could potentially yield another \$2.3 million for the project.

More Good News: The Birch Hills Golf Course portion (Segment 5; see map), is being developed by Chevron as part of the reconfiguration and upgrade of the golf course and is on track to open in late 2014.

We expect 2014 to be very busy and productive for *The Tracks*. Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

October 2014 Trail Update

Construction:

- The first phase of construction for **Segment 3** (see map) has begun! Phase 1 consists of grading and soil remediation. Cleaning up the contaminated soil from railroad use in previous years and grading are expected to be completed at the beginning of January. Phase 2, construction of the paved bicycle trail and decomposed granite pedestrian path, is planned to begin in the first half of 2015 and open to the public around the end of 2015.
- The Birch Hills Golf Course portion (**Segment 5**; see map), being developed by Chevron Land Development as part of the reconfiguration and upgrade of the Birch Hills Golf Course, is on track to open in early 2015.



Design:

• The City is continuing to partner with landscape architects David Evans & Associates to design **Segments 2 and 3** (see map).



Signs at Segment 3 recognize grant support



Recent Grant Awards:

- **Segment 2:** The Tracks was awarded \$950,000 from the Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities program administered by the State Strategic Growth Council.
- **Segment 3:** The Tracks was awarded \$350,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a supplement to the City's EPA Revolving Loan Fund to go toward soil remediation.

Pending Grants:

The Tracks at Brea project is a finalist on three grants: Land and Water Conservation Fund, which provides federal funds administered by the California State Parks and two grants through the Active Transportation Program (ATP). Final results are anticipated to be announced next month.



August 2015 Trail Update

Trail Construction Begins!

- Phase 1 construction on **Segment 3** (see map) which included soil remediation and rough grading, was completed in April.
- Phase 2 construction beginning the week of August 10 will include:
- ✓ Striped asphalt bike path and a separate decomposed granite (DG) pedestrian trail
- ✓ Parking lot near Brea Blvd.
- ✓ Trail entries at three residential streets (Orange, Poplar, & Randolph) as well as Brea Blvd. and State College Blvd. entries
- ✓ Landscaped bio-swales for water quality purposes
- ✓ Trees and related irrigation
- ✓ Benches, decorative mortared stone cobble, trash receptacles and a bike repair station
- Construction contract was awarded to GMC Engineering, Inc. using the Public Works bid process.
- Other pertinent facts:
- ✓ Contract allows for 100 working days, thus anticipated completion is early 2016.
- ✓ Site will continue to be closed for public safety during construction.

See page 2 for map and trail background information.

Join Us for a Community Meeting

When? Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00pm Where? Brea Community Center at 695 E. Madison Way in the Community Hall Patio Room

Purpose? Provide construction details on Segment 3 (see map) and preview Segment 4 (see map) concept plans and gather input on the trail design for that segment.

Birch Hills Golf Course Trail Construction:

Birch Hills Golf Course was reconfigured and upgraded by Chevron Land Development. Trail **Segment 5** (see map) is within the golf course and it will be opening soon to the public.

Recent Grant Award:

Segments 2 and 4: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded The Tracks \$600,000 more for soil cleanup. The EPA has been instrumental in moving the trail forward!

Pending Grants:

The Tracks at Brea team has applied for more Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding. Results are anticipated within the next few months. Another application was submitted for Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee's (MSRC) Clean Transportation Funding.



April 2016 Trail Update

Trail Segment 3 Now Open!

The last weekend in March brought the opening celebration of our newest section of The Tracks at Brea Trail. Located north of Imperial Highway and south of Lambert Road, Trail Segment 3 spans 0.8 miles from Brea Boulevard to State College Boulevard. Trail enthusiasts gathered at the Brea Boulevard entrance and joined City officials on the first walk, jog or ride of the trail.





Please note:
The plants are still being established,
so please stay on the trail.





June 2017 Trail Update

Construction Updates

Construction is progressing well on two segments of The Tracks at Brea. Segment 2, which travels west from Brea Boulevard to the Brea Canyon Channel, is anticipated to be completed mid-fall. Segment 2 will include a seating plaza and stairs to connect to the already open Segment 1.



Segment 2 Construction



Construction Updates (cont.)

Segment 6, between Kraemer Boulevard and Valencia Avenue, is expected to be completed by early fall of this year.



Segment 6 Construction

Both Segments 2 and 4 will feature separate pedestrian paths and paved bike trails.

Construction will also start soon on amenities to Segment 3, which opened last year and is between Brea Boulevard and State College Boulevard. These improvements include restroom, seating area, drinking fountain, bike racks, butterfly garden and nine fitness stations.

What's Inside?

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June 2017 Trail Update (page 2)

OC Register Article

The Orange County Register / Star Progress featured The Tracks at Brea on the April 21st cover page. The article focused on the opening of the trail segment that travels through Birch Hills Golf Course. Features include a chain link tunnel to protect trail users from wayward golf balls and a mock rail car with panels providing a glimpse of the Pacific Electric Railroad Red Line that once ran through Brea.





Fall Construction

The construction contract has just been awarded for the trail portion between State College Boulevard and Birch Street, known as Segment 4, and onsite construction is expected to begin in September. When this segment is completed in 2018, Brea will have a 4-mile trail and linear park.

Dogs Welcome!

The Tracks is a great place to walk leashed dogs. But, please remember to **bring doggie waste bags** as these are not provided.* Pet waste receptacles are available for convenient disposal along the trail. Thanks for helping to keep the trail a great place for two and four legged walkers.

*Dispenser bags are problematic, often ending up as litter on the ground or blowing about.

Model Trail

Brea's trail was visited in April by dignitaries from California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), Caltrans, and OCTA.

The Tracks at Brea was the only site selected because it is viewed as a model project representing Orange County's active transportation progress.

If you see any suspicious activity on the trail, please contact the Brea Police at 714-990-7911.





June 2017 Trail Update (page 3)

Experience The Tracks Event

On Saturday, May 27, over 400 residents biked, skated, walked, or rolled through the free *Experience The Tracks at Brea* event on Segment 3. Attendees were treated to bike and helmet safety checks from Two Wheeler Dealer bike shop and Orange County Health Care Agency, morning snacks donated by Sprouts and Jamba Juice, a children's bike rodeo and a chance to explore a fire engine. Updates on The Tracks, Community Services summer programs and OCTA programs were also shared.

Fun, temporary additions to the trail including pop-up furniture that provided shaded places to sit, bikes to borrow, and giveaways from Big 5 Sporting Goods added to the enjoyment of the event.

This event was made possible by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Go Human Campaign.











Trail Background

What is The Tracks at Brea?

The Tracks at Brea is a "rails-to-trails" project that is transforming an abandoned railroad right-of-way and other City-owned properties into a multi-use trail. The four-mile trail and linear park will include a two-way paved bike trail and a separate pedestrian path providing alternate transportation as well as offer fitness and recreational opportunities. The long-term goal is to connect with neighboring cities also working on building trails.

Please note: The plants are still being established, so please stay on the trail.

When Can I Use the Trail?

Due to complexities of the project and the grants funding the project, the trail is being developed in six segments. Segments 1, 3, and 5 have been completed and are open to the public. Construction is underway for Segments 2 and 6 and planned to begin early fall 2017 for Segment 4.

Keeping Updated on The Tracks at Brea

- Go to www.cityofbrea.net/thetracks
- Follow us on Facebook or Twitter

 @TheTracksAtBrea
- Watch for articles in Brea Line city newsletter
- Email <u>TheTracks@cityofbrea.net</u>



Construction of The Tracks funded by State and Federal Grants from agencies including: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Caltrans, California Transportation Commission, Strategic Growth Council, and Mobil Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.



Get out your walking shoes, a new section of Brea Trail opens and more miles are planned

BY HEATHER McREA 2016-03-30 10:40:14



A second nearly mile-long segment of The Tracks at Brea Trail has opened.

Cyclists, runners and walkers – even pooches – tried out the new section during a city ceremony on Saturday.

This segment takes users along a former railroad right-of-way from Brea Boulevard to State College Boulevard.

Previously, a segment opened from Arovista Park to just west of Brea Downtown. It doesn't connect with the new segment.

The land for the short section needed to link the two pieces is now owned by Brea and the trail is being designed. The city's economic development manager, Kathie DeRobbio, said construction could go to bid in September, with work starting early next year.

Trail users can get from one segment to the other by using the elevator in the downtown parking structure at the end of the first segment leading from Arovista Park and walking over via Brea Boulevard.

Once competed, The Tracks will be a 4-mile, multiple-use trail cutting east and west through the city. The work is being funded largely by grants; the city has received \$17.5 million. A lot of the cost has been for the cleaning up contamination from when the railroad used the land.

Finishing touches on a segment through Birch Hills Golf Course, owned by Chevron, are nearing completion. Later, the renovated golf course and trail will be turned over to the city as part of the development agreement for the La Floresta housing and retail projects.

There are two other segments, and the city owns those properties. Both should be under construction by next year.

"It is a very good project," said DeRobbio, "a very needed project."

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Summary and Conclusions

Summary:

Thanks to the support of the MSRC, the City of Brea has been able to continue its commitment to sustainable development through environmental protection, social responsibility and economic efficiency.

This grant helped construct The Tracks at Brea trail, which has a two-way paved bicycle path and a separate pedestrian trail. This project will result in removing pedestrians and cyclists from high-traffic volume streets and encourage the use of active transportation. Using trails for transportation rather than using vehicles results in a reduction of traffic and greenhouse gas emissions while improving air quality and public health. This trail project will reduce GHG emissions by 27 pounds per year, or 540 pounds over the first 20-years of the project. The project is also expected to reduce 14,830 motor vehicle trips annually.

Recommended Future Actions:

<u>Future Development Adjacent to Trail.</u> A private developer will be building 700 apartments on private property adjacent to the trail. It is recommended that the City work closely with the developer and with nearby residents to ensure mutual benefit and resolve any issues such as drainage that may arise.

<u>Landscaping and Signage</u>: While the City is in the process of adding trailhead signs and a series of interpretive signs, it is recommended that directional and informational signage also be added. Directional signage would be helpful for trail users by identifying where and how far the points of interest are such as the restroom and fitness equipment, Downtown Brea, and drinking fountain. More signage could also describe alternate routes.

<u>Trail Map and Outreach</u>: As the trail is reaching completion of four miles, it is suggested the City create a high quality map that is widely distributed to all residents. This should be coupled with a grand opening celebration of the four-mile trail with a great deal of promotion, as this has been a ten year project.

<u>Trail Extension</u>: The City is researching the possibility of extending the trail to the City's western border to connect with the trail being developed by the neighboring city of La Habra. This would allow trail users to access points of interest outside the city and around the county, as this trail is part of the 66-mile countywide trail called Orange County (OC) Loop.

Conclusion:

The knowledge and experience gained in this project is invaluable as City of Brea staff work toward expanding The Tracks at Brea trail to the west to connect with the City of La Habra and close the gap in the 66-mile Orange County (OC) Loop. This project would not have been possible without the support and assistance of the MSRC and it is hoped that the City of Brea will be called on to assist MSRC's efforts in air pollution reduction in the future.