

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Media Contact:**

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Kern County Public Works Invites Community Input on Proposed Hart Memorial Park Safety Improvements

KERN COUNTY, Calif. May 7, 2026 – Kern County Public Works is inviting residents to a public informational meeting to learn about – and share feedback on – a proposed Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant application focused on improving safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians in and around Hart Memorial Park.

Public Informational Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Hart Memorial Park: Area 7 (Northeast area of the park near the Nature Center picnic area along River Road)

Project Overview

Kern County Public Works is exploring a safety-focused improvement project along Alfred Harrell Highway, stretching from Fairfax Road to the eastern entrance of Hart Memorial Park

Proposed upgrades include:

1. **Class I bicycle and pedestrian path** – a fully separated, buffered route designed to keep users safely away from vehicle traffic
2. **Reduce** a vehicle travel lane from a **two lane to one lane** on Alfred Harrell Highway from Fairfax Road to Hart Memorial Park
3. Installation of a **roundabout at the park's east entrance** to enhance traffic flow while making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists

Within Hart Memorial Park, additional improvements under consideration include:

- Converting portions of River Road from two-way traffic to a **one-way configuration with diagonal parking**
- Creating space for a **new shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path**, improving access and safety for visitors and families

About the ATP

The proposed project would be funded through California's Active Transportation Program (ATP), a competitive statewide grant administered by the California Department of Transportation. Since 2014, Kern County has successfully secured ATP funding for projects that:

- Increase walking and bicycling
- Improve safety for non-motorized users
- Reduce vehicle emissions and enhance air quality
- Promote healthier, more active communities
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled

Community Input Encouraged

Hart Memorial Park is a valued regional destination for residents across Kern County. Kern County Public Works is seeking community feedback to ensure the proposed improvements align with the needs and priorities of park users and residents.

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The County will only move forward with submitting an ATP application if there is strong community support for the project. Residents from throughout the County are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and share their perspectives.

Kern County Public Works is a department of the County of Kern and is responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of roads, bridges, traffic signals, sanitary landfills, and publicly owned facilities. Kern County Public Works strives to provide quality public services including road permit inspection, building permit inspection and plan check, code compliance, engineering and surveying review of proposed land development, solid waste and hazardous waste disposal, wastewater treatment, public transportation, and community outreach, which serve to protect and enhance the lives of the people of Kern County. For more information, visit www.kernpublicworks.com and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @kerncountypublicworks.

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