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## Grant eyed to help fund multiuse trail

*Xochitl Peña*  
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After years of discussion, a multipurpose trail that can be used by horses, joggers, walkers and bicyclists could soon become a reality in the city of Indio — furthering a much larger plan to link the Coachella Valley via a network of such trails.

The city has applied for a \$350,000 state grant to help pay for construction of the trail along the west side of Monroe Street between Avenues 50 and 52.

“It’s really an opportunity to make our community distinctive,” said Mayor Melanie Fesmire. “Each city needs to do their own part and eventually people will be able to walk from one end to the other.”

Fesmire said there has been talk for decades of creating trails in the valley for bikes and other uses.

The Coachella Valley Community Trails Alliance is now working to develop a trail system that would link the entire valley from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea.

The trail in Indio would connect with those in La Quinta that run along Monroe between Avenues 52 and 53, and along Avenue 52 from Jefferson to Monroe streets.

The trail would have bridle fencing and decomposed granite for horses, but would also be appropriate for biking and jogging, said Jim Smith, the city Public Works director.

It would look similar to the trails in La Quinta, Smith said.

“This is filling in a missing link. It’s part of the equestrian development of the area,” he said.

The trail would run along the east side of the Empire Polo Club, in an area called Country Estates, known for its equestrian lifestyle and horse farms.

Smith said the city should know in March if the funding request is granted.

The plan is to install the trail at the same time the city widens Monroe Street from two lanes to four lanes along that stretch.

If all goes as planned, Smith said construction on both the road and trail could begin in the fall.

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