

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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City Selects Design Consultant for Mohawk Street Extension

Bakersfield's Westside Parkway took another step toward becoming reality Wednesday night when the Bakersfield City Council approved a \$4.4 million contract with Dokken Engineering for final design services on the Mohawk Street extension project. Mohawk Extension is an integral part of the future Westside Parkway, providing freeway access from both Truxtun Avenue and Rosedale Highway.

The connection will be a significant boost to circulation for Northwest Bakersfield and will potentially help relieve congestion on Rosedale Highway, Olive Drive and Coffee Road by providing another connection across the river to Northwest Bakersfield.

The Westside Parkway has been a matter of public discussion for nearly two decades, but the City has been able to move forward on the project due to Congressman Bill Thomas' (R-CA) successful efforts to secure \$722 million in Bakersfield area transportation funds in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, signed into law in August 2005. The Westside Parkway is one of several projects currently moving forward under the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) umbrella. The majority of these projects are still in the early stages of development, but all are designed to relieve traffic congestion and provide better access throughout the Bakersfield area. All of the projects have also been put on the fast-track to completion.

Dokken's contract includes the design of a six lane road – three lanes in each direction – with additional bike lanes, that cross under the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks and over the Cross Valley Canal, Kern River and future Westside Parkway. Dokken will also design the Mohawk interchange that ties into the Westside Parkway.

Construction on the Mohawk extension project is anticipated to begin in late 2007 or early 2008.

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