

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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City Council awards four road project contracts

The Bakersfield City Council awarded four contracts to three engineering firms at Wednesday night's meeting. Awarding these contracts was a significant step forward in bringing the Thomas Roads Improvement Program's (TRIP) projects to reality.

The firms will provide preliminary engineering services, which include numerous environmental studies, conceptual layouts of project alternatives, and all of the supporting documentation necessary to complete the draft and final environmental reports. Preliminary engineering is anticipated to take about two years to complete and will include several opportunities for public involvement on each project.

The City awarded a \$3.4 million contract to HNTB Corp. for work on the Rosedale Highway widening project. This initial environmental work extends from SR-99 to SR-43, with an ultimate plan of widening the road to six lanes between SR-99 and Allen Road and to four lanes between Allen Road and SR-43. The first phase of construction will extend from SR-99 to west of Calloway Drive.

RBF Consulting received two contracts -- a \$1.5 million contract for the 24th and Oak Street interchange and a \$1.9 million contract for the 24th Street widening project that will widen 24th Street between Elm and D streets to six lanes.

A \$1.3 million contract was awarded to PSOMAS Corp. for the SR-178 at Morning Drive interchange project that will also extend the freeway segment of the route for 1.5 miles.

The four projects fall under the umbrella of the TRIP, a City-led agency established to manage the freeway projects that former Congressman Bill Thomas earmarked in the 2005 transportation bill. TRIP also oversees the development of the Westside Parkway. Completion of these and other TRIP projects are expected to significantly improve circulation in and around the metropolitan area.

For more information, please contact Janet Wheeler, TRIP Public Outreach, at (661) 326-3491 or visit the website at www.bakersfieldfreeways.us.

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