

## Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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### City Council awards contract for new interchange

The Bakersfield City Council gave the green light to build the first project under the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) last night, when it approved a construction contract with Security Paving Company of Sun Valley, California.

Security Paving Company was one of six firms to bid on the interchange contract and submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$28,992,446. The company has been in business for more than 50 years and specializes in large highway projects.

The SR-178 at Fairfax Road Interchange has been designed to improve traffic circulation in Northeast Bakersfield. It includes constructing a new interchange at the current at-grade SR-178 and Fairfax Road intersection and extending the freeway for approximately 1.5 miles. Project plans also include widening Fairfax Road to six through-lanes across SR-178, installing sound walls and extensive landscaping.

Construction is expected to begin in September 2007 and take approximately two years to complete. Funding for this project includes TRIP (from the 2005 Federal Transportation Act – SAFETEA-LU), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the City of Bakersfield.

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

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