

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

900 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 200 Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone: (661) 326-3700 • Fax: (661) 852-2195



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 14, 2007

Contact: Janet Wheeler
Public Relations
(661) 326-3491

TRIP Breaks Ground on SR-178/Fairfax Road Interchange

The Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the SR-178/Fairfax Road Interchange Project today. The ceremony was held on a site adjacent to the current intersection that will become part of the new interchange.

A program of noteworthy speakers marked the occasion with upbeat remarks about the project and the partnership of agencies that comprise the Thomas Roads Improvement Program. Speakers included Congressman Kevin McCarthy, former Congressman William M. Thomas, Caltrans District 6 Director Malcolm Dougherty, Mayor Harvey L. Hall and Councilmember Ken Weir. Joining in the celebration were City, County and Caltrans representatives, project neighbors and members of the motoring public. All were welcomed to the event by the Highland High School Black Watch Marching Band.

The construction of the SR-178/Fairfax Road Interchange will relieve traffic congestion by providing additional capacity on both SR-178 and Fairfax Road, and by providing more efficient access on and off SR-178. The project began more than 10 years ago when the City prepared a Project Study Report; Caltrans approved the document in May 1997. Construction is scheduled for completion in summer 2009.

In 2005, Congressman Thomas earmarked \$722 for regional transportation projects in the 2005 Federal Transportation Act – the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) – \$630 million was designated for projects in the greater Bakersfield-area. Today's celebration illustrates how the infusion of federal dollars – though contingent on local matching funds – is allowing transportation planners to move forward with much-needed projects.

The groundbreaking ceremony was made possible through financial and in-kind contributions from Parsons Corp., Security Paving Company, and PB Americas, Inc.

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

###

Managed by the City of Bakersfield in cooperation with
County of Kern • California Department of Transportation
www.Bakersfieldfreeways.us