

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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Media Advisory

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Groundbreaking ceremony set for SR-99 at 7th Standard Road Interchange

The County of Kern, in cooperation with the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP), invites the media and public to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the State Route (SR)-99 at 7th Standard Road Interchange on Friday, February 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Congressman Kevin McCarthy and retired Congressman William M. Thomas are scheduled to participate in the event, along with representatives from Kern County, Caltrans and the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter.

The \$13.3 million construction project will build a new structure over SR-99 for west bound traffic, leaving the existing bridge to carry east bound traffic. The project will also construct a structure over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks for both east and west bound traffic, realign Saco and Quinn roads, construct a new north bound on-ramp, and improve the existing north bound off-ramp on SR-99.

The County of Kern, City of Bakersfield, City of Shafter and the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District participated in joint agencies agreements to fund the project. Additional funding was secured through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), and TRIP funds earmarked for area freeway projects by former Congressman William M. Thomas in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA: LU). The SR 99 at 7th Standard Road interchange is the second project to begin construction under TRIP.

Ruettgers and Schuler and Parsons provided project design and Security Paving Company will be the prime contractor on the interchange project. Construction will begin this spring with completion scheduled for spring 2010.

Call Janet Wheeler at TRIP for additional information, (661) 326-349, or visit the website at bakersfieldfreeways.us.

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