

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 22, 2008

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

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

The groundbreaking ceremony held this morning for the SR-99 at 7th Standard Road Interchange marked another milestone for improving traffic circulation throughout the metropolitan area. Congressman Kevin McCarthy and former Congressman William M. Thomas joined representatives from Kern County, the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to celebrate the kickoff of the second Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) project to begin construction.

The County of Kern is the lead agency for the SR-99 at 7th Standard Road Interchange Project, which will become part of the planned North Beltway. The project includes building a new structure across SR-99 to carry west bound traffic, a separation of grade over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, realigning Saco and Quinn roads, construction of a new north bound on-ramp and improving the existing north bound off-ramp. Construction of this interchange is expected to relieve traffic congestion by providing additional capacity on this segment of 7th Standard Road. It will also improve traffic operations and safety by eliminating an at-grade railroad crossing. The project was designed by Ruetters and Schuler and Parsons. The contractor, Security Paving Company, will begin construction later this spring. Completion is scheduled for spring 2010.

The \$13.3 million construction project is funded through multiple sources, including a joint agencies agreement between the City of Bakersfield, City of Shafter and County of Kern. Funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program, Traffic Congestion Relief Program, and TRIP were also used to finance the project. (TRIP funds were 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]).

Today's groundbreaking celebration was made possible through contributions made by Parsons and Security Paving Company.

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

###