

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

1600 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 300 Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone: (661) 326-3700 • Fax: (661) 852-2195



MEDIA ADVISORY
Tuesday, Aug 19, 2008

Contact: Holly Vogel, PIO Caltrans, (661) 326-3968

TRIP TO HOST NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING FOR CENTENNIAL CORRIDOR PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE C

WHAT: The Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) team will host a neighborhood meeting for residents near proposed Alternative C of the Centennial Corridor Project. Alternative C is located just east and west of Highway 99 from Ming Avenue to Rosedale Highway.

Residents will have an opportunity to learn about the environmental and community impact assessment processes governing development of the project and the right-of-way process used by Caltrans to acquire properties once the preferred alternative has been selected and the environmental process has been completed.

In addition, residents will have an opportunity to view conceptual maps of the proposed alignment and ask questions about the project. Information and presentations will be available in English and Spanish.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21, 2008 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: McKinley Elementary School 601 Fourth Street, just west of Union Avenue

WHO: Representatives from Caltrans, TRIP; HNTB, the engineering company that is preparing the environmental document; the City of Bakersfield; and County of Kern will be on hand to answer residents' questions about the project. Project spokespersons will be available for interviews as well.

WHY: The neighborhood meeting for Alternative C is part of the ongoing public participation process of the environmental phase for development of Centennial Corridor which includes public meetings, smaller neighborhood meetings and one-on-one community impact assessment interviews. Neighborhood Meetings have already been conducted for Alternatives A and B (Westpark alignment) and Alternative D (Union Avenue alignment). In addition, a Public Scoping Meeting to introduce the project was held in March 2008. A second Public Scoping Meeting is slated for early October.

The Centennial Corridor project seeks to develop a connection of State Route (SR) 58 with the Westside Parkway and, ultimately, Interstate 5. The purpose of this connection is to reduce congestion, improve the flow of goods movement into and out of the region, provide direct benefits to the regional and national economy and support the continued economic growth of the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

Among the alternatives currently under consideration are five initially proposed by Caltrans and several submitted by the public during neighborhood meetings, focus group meetings and community impact assessment interviews.

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