

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRIP TO HOST CENTENNIAL CORRIDOR PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

Bakersfield—The Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) Centennial Corridor Project Development Team, will host a public meeting Thursday, October 2, 2008, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Kern County Administrative Building rotunda located at 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California. The team will present all project alternatives reviewed during the preliminary screening process and details about the alternatives that were eliminated from further study and those that are anticipated to be carried through the environmental process.

During the open-house format meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to review refined alignment alternative maps; get information about the environmental process, the Right-of-Way process and project timeline; learn how to get involved in the public participation process; and have an opportunity to volunteer for the Citizen's Advisory Group currently being formed to engage the public in the project development process.

The alternatives that are anticipated to be carried into the environmental review process include: Alternative A - West of State Route 99 connecting to Westside Parkway between Mohawk Street and Coffee Road; Alternative B - West of SR-99 connecting to Westside Parkway at Mohawk Street; Alternative C - Parallels SR-99; Alternative D - Union Avenue Alignment; Mass Transit alternative; and Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative; as well as the No-Build alternative which will also be carried through the environmental analysis phase.

Earlier in the month, the team eliminated several alternatives from further study because they did not meet the project's purpose and need requirements; could not be built to meet Caltrans safety and operational standards; or exceeded the cost threshold of \$800 million.

The proposed Centennial Corridor is one of a dozen transportation projects moving forward under TRIP, which is a unique collaboration between Caltrans, the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, and Kern Council of Governments. The organization was created to manage the freeway-type projects designated for funding in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). It is named in honor of former Congressman William M. Thomas, who successfully earmarked \$630 million in federal funds for Metropolitan Bakersfield.

Information and materials at the meeting will be available in English and Spanish.

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