

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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Construction to begin on Mohawk Street Extension

The City of Bakersfield has notified Security Paving Company, Inc. to resume mobilization efforts to begin construction of the Mohawk Street Extension Project, which is the first phase of the Westside Parkway. Work is expected to begin within six to eight weeks.

The project will extend Mohawk Street from Rosedale Highway to Truxtun Avenue. The 1.2 mile roadway will have three lanes in each direction, plus bike lanes. Construction includes bridges over the Kern River, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, and the mainline (east-west portion) of the future Westside Parkway. Work includes the installation of a traffic signal at the Rosedale Highway and Mohawk Street intersection, and modification of the traffic signal at the Truxtun Avenue and Mohawk Street intersection. The Kern River Bike Path will be realigned, but will remain open during construction.

In August 2008, the California Transportation Commission allocated State Transportation Improvement Program funding for construction of Westside Parkway Phases 1 and 2 using proceeds from Proposition 1B (Proposition 1B was approved by voters in November 2006 to provide funding for transportation purposes). In November 2008, the Bakersfield City Council awarded a \$27.7 million construction contract to Security Paving for the Phase 1 project, and Security Paving was subsequently issued a notice to proceed with the project. But in December, the City received notification from Caltrans that reimbursement for projects funded by Proposition 1B could not be guaranteed, and the project has since been on hold.

The State passed a new budget in late February, and after this budget approval the City received additional correspondence from Caltrans indicating funding should now be available for reimbursement of selected Proposition 1B projects, and that the City could proceed with the construction of the Phase 1 (Mohawk Street) project. However, the funds to allow for the construction of Phase 2 currently remain on hold.

The Mohawk Street Extension is one of a dozen projects managed by the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP), a cooperative effort between the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, Caltrans and the Kern Council of Governments.

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

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