

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

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Groundbreaking ceremony held for Westside Parkway Phase 1 (Mohawk Street Extension Project)

California Transportation Commission Chairman Bob Alvarado joined Bakersfield Mayor Harvey L. Hall and Councilmember Sue Benham to kick off the first phase of the Westside Parkway – the Mohawk Street Extension Project.

The project extends Mohawk Street from Rosedale Highway to Truxtun Avenue, crossing the Kern River, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the future east-west section of the Westside Parkway. The new 1.2 mile six-lane road will provide motorists with another north-south crossing over the Kern River, which will improve circulation for northwest and southwest Bakersfield and alleviate traffic congestion on adjacent north-south arterial streets. The project also includes the installation of a new traffic signal at Mohawk Street at Rosedale Highway and improvements to the signal at Mohawk Street and Truxtun Avenue. The Kern River Parkway bike path will be rerouted and remain open during construction.

The Bakersfield City Council awarded a construction contract to Security Paving Company in November 2008. In December, the State froze \$138 million for seven City projects, including \$131 million for Westside Parkway Phases 1 and 2, which forced the City to suspend construction. The State released funding for Westside Parkway Phase 1 in late February, allowing the City to move forward with the project. Construction is expected to get underway in mid-May. Completion is anticipated in spring 2012.

Nolte Associates Inc. will provide construction management services. The project was designed by Dokken Engineering.

Today's groundbreaking celebration was made possible through financial contributions from Security Paving Company, Nolte Associates Inc. and Dokken Engineering.

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

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