



24th Street Improvement Project

INFORMATION SHEET

ABOUT TRIP:

The **Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP)** was named in honor of former Congressman William M. Thomas who led the effort to secure federal earmarks for major road improvement projects in the greater Bakersfield area. Thomas' efforts designated funding for the 24th Street project in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), under Section 1302—National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program.

TRIP is a cooperative effort between the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, Caltrans and the Kern Council of Governments. These agencies are committed to finding and implementing solutions that meet the region's long-term transportation needs.

The City of Bakersfield is the lead CEQA agency and Caltrans is the NEPA lead agency for the 24th Street Improvement Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project area extends from State Route (SR) 99 to M Street. The project provides improvements to the Oak Street/24th Street (SR-178) intersection, widening of 24th Street between Oak Street and D Street, and improvements to 23rd and 24th Streets between D Street and M Street.

area from northeast and northwest Bakersfield that will serve existing and forecast travel demand for the 2035 design year.

- ❖ To support federal, State, and local regional plans and policies that call for improving the State Route 178 (SR-178) and Oak Street/24th Street intersection as mandated by legislative earmark.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To address roadway and operational deficiencies such as traffic congestion, limited capacity, and inefficient traffic operations at the existing intersections and along 24th Street between SR-99 and M Street.
- ❖ To increase the vehicle, person, and goods movement capacity of the Oak Street/24th Street intersection and along 24th Street to more effectively serve local and regional future travel demand.
- ❖ To improve local circulation, mobility, and direct access to the downtown

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The State/Federal environmental document will incorporate multiple study results, community input and ideas, and document the reasons for which decisions are made. The environmental process for the 24th Street Improvement Project will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project's purpose, including various "build" and "no build" alternatives. Following the completion of numerous studies, a draft environmental document will be presented to the public for comment.





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ENVIRONMENTAL TIMELINE:

The tentative schedule for conceptual engineering, completion of technical studies, preparation of the draft environmental document, and approval of the final environmental document is as follows:

- ❖ In Progress Start conceptual engineering
- ❖ In Progress Start preparation of environmental technical studies
- ❖ In Progress Public scoping process (public input and comments)
- ❖ Spring 2009 Start preparation of the environmental documents
- ❖ Spring 2010 Circulate draft environmental document
- ❖ Summer 2010 Public review and hold public meetings on the draft environmental document
- ❖ Fall 2010 Respond to comments and finalize the final environmental document
- ❖ Fall 2011 Approval of the final environmental document

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

There will be several opportunities for public involvement during the environmental process, beginning with the Public Scoping Meeting held on April 30, 2008. Public hearings will be scheduled to receive comments on the draft environmental document. The draft environmental document will be made available for public review at the TRIP office, City of Bakersfield Planning Department, Public Works Department and the main branch of the Kern County Library. Interested persons are encouraged to attend meetings and participate in the process. You may send your written comments to the address listed below.

NOTIFICATION:

Notices to inform the public of the availability of the draft and final environmental documents will be published in newspapers, posted on the City of Bakersfield and Bakersfield Freeways websites, mailed to property owners along the corridor and to those who have requested to be added to the mailing list.

Send your name and complete mailing address and/or comments to:

Thomas Roads Improvement Program

Attn: Janet Wheeler

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Phone: (661) 326-3491

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Get involved. Stay informed.

Your contributions will help shape Bakersfield's future quality of life.

