



State Route 99 at 7th Standard Road Interchange

Background:

The project involves construction of interchange improvements at State Route (SR) 99 and 7th Standard Road and a separation of grade at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. This is the second project to start construction under the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP). Construction began May 6, 2008 and completion is scheduled for early 2010.

Project improvements include:

- Construction of a new structure across SR 99 to carry west bound traffic;
- Construction of a Separation of Grade at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks;
- Signalizing the Golden State Avenue and 7th Standard Road intersection;
- The realignment of Saco and Quinn Roads; and
- Widening 7th Standard Road through the project area.

The interchange was designed by Ruetters and Schuler and Parsons. Construction management services are provided by Athalye Consulting Engineers, Inc. Security Paving Company is the prime contractor.

Construction costs for this project are \$13.3 million. Funding sources include: Kern County; the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, and the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District; TRIP; State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); the Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP); the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Section 190; and the UPRR.

Facts & Figures:

- Approximately 270,000 cubic yards of soil will be imported to the project, mostly from the interchange project located at SR 178 at Fairfax Road Interchange.
- Up to 52 trucks ran simultaneously to move the soil.
- Old roadbed materials were recycled into roadway base on site.
- The two bridges will contain over 6,100 cubic yards of concrete and 1.2 million pounds of reinforcing steel.
- The Kern County Roads Department has coordinated multiple utility relocations, including oil and high pressure gas lines, fiber optic lines, water lines, railroad communication lines, phone lines, and natural gas lines.
- During any construction within 25' of the railroad tracks, the Union Pacific Railroad requires and supplies a railroad "flagger". The flagger serves as a full-time "look-out" who ensures that construction does not conflict with rail traffic.