

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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August 31, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Document and Announcement of Public Hearing for the State Route 178/Morning Drive Interchange Improvements Project

The California Department of Transportation in cooperation with the City of Bakersfield, is proposing to construct a new interchange along State Route 178 from 0.65 mile west of Morning Drive to 1.2 miles east of Morning Drive in Bakersfield, California. The proposed project would widen State Route 178 to a four-lane freeway. Morning Drive would be widened from a two-lane road to a six-lane road from south of State Route 178 to Auburn Street and from two-lanes to four-lanes between Auburn Street and Panorama Drive. Additional right-of-way would be required. Two build alternatives, including a design option, and a No-Build Alternative are under consideration for this project. The project is located in the northeastern portion of the City of Bakersfield, within central Kern County.

This letter is to notify you that the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the Caltrans District 6, Environmental Division Office in Fresno at 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100. There are also copies of the report available at the following locations on weekdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: TRIP Office at 900 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93301; the City of Bakersfield Planning Department at 1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301; the Kern Council of Governments office at 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301 and the City of Bakersfield Public Works Department at 1501 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301. The report is also available at the Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 Tuesday through Thursday from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm., as well as on the following web page: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/environmental/envdocs/d6/>. Comments on the document are being accepted until October 15, 2010. Please submit any comments or concerns about the document to Kirsten Helton at 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726.

A Public Hearing will be held to present the current status of the State Route 178/Morning Drive Interchange Improvements project and to obtain public input on the draft environmental document. At the Public Hearing, Caltrans will present maps and graphics of the project area and will summarize key results of technical studies supporting the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. The date, time and location of the hearing are listed below. The hearing will be informal and you may arrive at any time.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Highland High School  
2900 Royal Scots Way  
Bakersfield, California

If you have any questions, please contact me at (559) 243-8224.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Helton, Chief  
Southern Valley Environmental Analysis Branch