



City Manager's Office

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Transportation Funds Released For Westside Parkway Phase 2 Construction

The City of Bakersfield is very pleased to announce that funding has become available for construction of Phase 2 of the Westside Parkway. The project has been on hold, pending the release of State funds. In December 2008, the State froze \$138 million for seven City projects, including \$131 million for Phases 1 and 2 of the Westside Parkway, which forced us to suspend construction. The State released funding for Phase 1 in February and, as a result of their recent bond sale, they have released the funds for Phase 2. We will move forward immediately, with bid requests expected to be released at the end of this week.

Phase 2 will include construction of the segment between Mohawk Street and Calloway Drive, with interchanges at Mohawk Street and Coffee Road. An interchange at Calloway Drive may be included, depending on bid results. Work is anticipated to begin this summer and is estimated to take two to three years to complete. Construction of Phase 1, the Mohawk Street Extension, will start later this month, with a ground breaking ceremony scheduled on April 23rd.

Ultimately, the Westside Parkway will extend from Truxtun Avenue, just west of State Route 99 to Stockdale Highway near Heath Road. Construction of Phases 1 and 2 will be a significant step in completing the new east-west freeway, which is a long needed route that will significantly reduce traffic congestion and will be an important link in the overall connectivity of our local transportation system. The City is the lead agency for the Westside Parkway project, which is being administered under the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP).

The release of the State funding is very timely, according to City Manager Alan Tandy, who stated, "Phases 1 and 2 of the Westside Parkway represent major construction projects. In addition to improving our local traffic congestion, this will be a great economic stimulus that comes at a critical time when our community really needs it."

For more information, please contact Rhonda Smiley at (661) 326-3753.

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