

Kern COG Quarterly

BETTER PLANNING. BETTER TRANSPORTATION.

Hosking interchange keeps TRIP rolling through projects in summer 2016

Ongoing regional transportation system improvements continue through several projects managed by the Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP), a partnership among the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, Caltrans and Kern COG.

In March, TRIP opened the State Route 99/Hosking Avenue Interchange, creating a new access point to and from State Route 99 and improving circulation at the adjacent Panama Lane and State Route 119 (Taft Highway) interchanges, as well as other area arterial roads.

The State Route 99/Hosking Avenue Interchange offers opportunities for expanded commercial and residential development in south Bakersfield. A planned, new retail center with a dozen restaurants and a theater is expected to open in about two years next to the interchange, bringing new jobs to the area.

Elsewhere, construction is underway on the Rosedale Highway Widening Project; the Southbound State Route 99 Auxiliary Lane/Rosedale Highway Off-ramp Improvements; Beltway Operational Improvements Project (along State Routes 58 and 99), and the State Route 178 Widening Project.

The Centennial Corridor Project, which will connect State Route 58 to the Westside Parkway, reached a major milestone when the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by Caltrans District 6 officials in February 2016, completing the projects' environmental phase.

Even before Centennial's environmental document was complete, the City of Bakersfield began acquiring right-of-way under new Federal Highway Administration rules. To date, the city has already purchased 150 of the 199 single family homes (75 percent); eight of the nine multi-family properties (89%); and nine of the 18 (50 percent) commercial/industrial properties needed.

Construction on Centennial Corridor is expected to begin in 2018.

The State Route 99/Hosking Avenue Interchange offers opportunities for expanded commercial and residential development in south Bakersfield.

Kern Council of Governments

SUMMER 2016

Inside...

2
Electric vehicle charging station opens at Weill Institute

Kern region's population growth in line with California's

3
160 attendees honor 2015 Regional Award recipients

4
\$289 million in funding set for 75 local and state projects



Bakersfield City Manager Alan Tandy, at podium, jokes with speakers including Kern COG Executive Director Ahron Hakimi, far left, and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, third from left, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Hosking Road interchange at State Route 99 in March. (Photo courtesy of TBC Media)

Electric vehicle charging station opens at Weill Institute

The Kern Community College District (KCCD) sees its new electric-vehicle (EV) charging station at 2100 Chester Ave. in Bakersfield as a win-win for the District and the community.

Using about \$12,000 in Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity (RICO) – Alternative Fuels grant funding from the California Energy Commission through the California Workforce Investment Board, KCCD joined with CSU Fresno’s Office of Economic Development, Project Clean Air, Kern Economic Development Corporation, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization in 2013 to explore how

the San Joaquin Valley could increase jobs from using alternative fuels in the transportation sector.

“The KCCD determined that the PHEV Ford Fusions would be good district vehicles. The gas savings and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (VAD) incentives made them the best, financially for the District,” said Dave Teasdale, Director, Economic and Workforce Development Programs and the 21st Century Energy Center.

“When the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle Partnership (SJVEVP) helped get about \$12,000 in KCCD grant funding from RICO to add charging stations, we were able to make our charging infrastructure accessible to the public.”

The Level 2 charging station was installed as part of a parking lot rehabilitation project. Bakersfield contractor JE Electric completed the installation and the station opened in August 2015.

Please See EV Charging Stations, page 4



New charging station at 2100 Chester Ave.

Kern region's population growth in line with California's

According to the newest estimates from the California Department of Finance in May, Kern County’s population of 886,507 grew in line with California in 2015, adding 6,130 residents for an annual percentage increase of 0.7 percent.

Kern County has the 11th highest population in the state, directly behind Fresno County (984,541) and slightly ahead of San Francisco County (866,583). Meanwhile, California’s population grew to 39,255,833, an increase of more than 348,000 people from the previous year or 0.9 percent. Nearly 1 in 8 Americans are California residents.

McFarland had the highest growth rate of cities within Kern County, gaining 3% to 14,658. Arvin grew at a 2.3% annual rate to 20,978.

Bakersfield is the state’s ninth largest city with an estimated 379,110 residents growing at 1.2 percent during the previous year. The percentage population growth was among the highest for cities of more than 300,000.

Three cities –Tehachapi, Taft and California City – experienced small declines due to reduced “group quarter” populations. State inmate reductions to relieve prison overcrowding led to these decreases.

Kern County’s economy is strongly linked to the petroleum industry, which has been adversely impacted by a long period of low prices and reduced activity. In periods of

strong petroleum industry growth, Kern County has experienced population growth rates of more than 3 percent annually.

Below are the 2015 and 2016 population numbers for Kern County and the incorporated cities.

	2015	2016	% Change
Kern	880,387	886,507	0.7
Arvin	20,511	20,978	2.3
Bakersfield	374,642	379,110	1.2
California City	14,233	13,992	-1.7
Delano	52,757	52,999	0.5
Maricopa	1,139	1,140	0.1
McFarland	14,231	14,658	3.0
Ridgecrest	27,953	28,064	0.4
Shafter	17,847	18,048	1.1
Taft	9,515	9,405	-1.2
Tehachapi	12,758	12,217	-4.2
Wasco	26,317	26,471	0.6
Balance of County	308,484	309,425	0.3

Source: California State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Report E-1, May 2, 2016

160 attendees honor 2015 Regional Award recipients

More than 160 attendees helped Kern COG honor 18 individuals, organizations and programs for making major contributions to this area's quality of life through innovative, cooperative efforts during the annual Regional Awards of Merit Ceremony in March at the Seven Oaks Country Club in Bakersfield.

California City Mayor and Kern COG Chairwoman Jennifer Wood emceed the gala evening, which included providing certificates to each of the recipients from the Kern County Board of Supervisors, both houses of the California Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Regional Awards of Merit recipients, as decided by a Kern COG Board ad-hoc committee, were divided among nine broad categories and included:

Local Government:

- **1+1+2=Game Changer Program** (County of Kern, Bakersfield College and the Kern High School District) for crafting attainable and economically efficient pathways for student success.
- **West Side Cemetery District in Taft** for restoring and working to preserve the historical Midway Cemetery.
- **Kern County Water Agency's Improvement District No. 4** for its 45-minute video "Do the Water," aimed at educating the region's students on the drought crisis.

Community Involvement:

- **2015 Oildorado Executive Board** for its leadership, teamwork, collaboration and contributions to Taft and the County of Kern.
- **Building Healthy Communities South Kern** for working to improve community health and initiate policy and systemic change in education, the environment, recreation and health care access.
- **The Ford Theater** in Shafter for creating a one-of-a-kind community theater.
- **The Bakersfield College Environmental Horticulture Program's Garden Fest** for bringing students, small businesses and professionals together to promote sustainable and responsible landscaping practices within the region.

Ken Volpe Award for Environmental Resources and Conservation:

- **James H. Gregory** for transforming an abandoned hotel into innovative and highly functional apartment grounds.
- **Airport Valet Express** for providing safe, reliable and environmentally friendly transportation to Kern County residents traveling to LAX.

Transportation:

- **The City of Ridgecrest – Engineering Department** for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Reconstruction project.
- **Thomas Roads Improvement Program** for the State Route 178/Morning Drive Interchange project.

Richard A. Maxwell Public Safety:

- **Bakersfield Police Department** for reducing call response times and improving its community outreach.

Innovation:

- **Downtown Bakersfield Corporation** for its collaborative efforts to ensure downtown Bakersfield is presented as "Safe, Secure and Welcoming!" to residents and tourists.

Darrel Hildebrand Distinguished Leadership – Public Official:

- **Lorelei Oviatt**, Kern County Planning and Community Development Director.
- **Bob Neath**, Engineering Manager with the Kern County Public Works Department.
- **Jim Suver**, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital CEO.

Ronald E. Brummett Lifetime Achievement – Individual:

- **Dr. Ronald M. Kean**, Professor Emeritus of Music at Bakersfield College, for his continued dedication to the vibrancy of Kern County's choral music legacy.

Chairman's Award of Regional Cooperation:

- **The Bob Parker Scout Lodge** in California City, a true community project with many volunteers contributing their time, labor and materials over a five-year period.

Kern COG celebrated 25 years of recognizing those programs and people in our region whose ideas and hard work have made life in Kern County better for us all. The ceremony is being rebroadcast on KGOV-TV in May, with each recipient also receiving a copy of the video.



Supervisor Leticia Perez, center, accepts the Regional Award for Local Government from Kern COG Chairwoman Jennifer Wood, left, for the "1+1+2=Game Changer Program," jointly produced by the County of Kern, Bakersfield College and the Kern High School District to craft attainable and economically efficient pathways for student success.

\$289 million in funding set for 75 local and state projects

Kern COG's short-range transportation project list, the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), reflects nearly \$289 million on major projects in 2015-16, including \$194 million in Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) projects in Bakersfield, such as the State Route 58/Rosedale Highway widening and operational improvements to State Routes 58 and 99.

The FTIP identifies more than 75 local, state and federally funded transportation projects in five categories:

Program Name	Total Number of Projects	Total Value
Active Transportation Program	13	\$6,772,000
Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality	18	\$8,987,355
Regional Surface Transportation	17	\$10,365,118
State Highway Capacity	5	\$194,393,000
State Highway Maintenance	22+	\$68,583,000
Total	75+	\$289,100,473

Active Transportation Program projects improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and connections. Regional Surface Transportation Program dollars finance street and road maintenance throughout the region. Eligible Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program projects must reduce congestion, pollution and improve safety. The Active Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation /Air Quality Program and Regional Surface Transportation Program are generally delivered by individual jurisdictions or Caltrans.

There are 36 projects totaling \$17.8 million that have started the delivery process. The remaining 16 projects, with a value of \$21 million, are expected to move forward in the days ahead. Additionally, agencies have accelerated the delivery of an additional \$2.5 million in future programming for several Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality projects.

The status of some of the largest ongoing road projects is provided below:

Project Description	Construction Investment	Delivery Status	Expected Completion
SR 58 Rosedale Hwy widening	\$12,000,000	under construction	Summer 2016
SR 58 & 99 Beltway operational improvements	\$118,393,000	under construction	Summer 2017
SR 99 Hosking Road Interchange	\$31,000,000	Completed	Spring 2016
SR 178 Widening Vineland to Miramonte	\$27,000,000	under construction	Summer 2017
SR 178 Morning Drive Interchange	\$56,000,000	Completed	Fall 2015

A comprehensive status report on Projects of Regional Significance throughout Kern County may be downloaded at: http://www.kerncog.org/images/docs/progress_report_201604.pdf.

EV Charging Stations (Continued from page 2)

It costs \$2 per hour to charge at the site and the station accepts the SemaConnect Pass and major credit cards. Between August 2015 and March 2016, 177 charging sessions were logged by the public and the District logged in for 40 charging sessions. Each session lasted about 2 hours and provided 6 kWh of charging (about 25% of the battery, or 20 miles on a Nissan LEAF). Level 2 charging adds about 10 to 20 miles of range to a PEV per hour of charging time.

Eventually, employees who decide to purchase EVs would be able to charge at work. If they can identify a sponsor, then the District would like to make the first hour of charging free to the public. For more information on electric vehicles, charging stations and incentives, visit www.projectcleanair.us/sjvevp/ or the VAD Plug-In Electric Vehicle Resources website <http://valleyair.org/grants/pev.htm>.