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Media Alert

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Ribbon-cutting Celebrating the Virginia Street Pedestrian Path Project

Approximately 1.5 miles of both sidewalks and bike lanes along the Virginia Street corridor



What: Kern County Public Works celebrates the completion of the Virginia Street Pedestrian Path Project with a ribbon-cutting at Heritage Park.

When: **Wednesday, July 27, 2022**
10-10:45 a.m.: Ceremony

Where: **Southwest corner of Heritage Park: 2320 Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93306**

Who: Virginia Street Pedestrian Path Project Ribbon-cutting Remarks and Attendees:

- Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez, District 5 – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Manager Yolanda Alcantar & Staff

Background: Join Kern County Public Works, elected officials, and community members as we celebrate the completion of the Virginia Street Pedestrian Path Project.

This project was proposed due to the community's concerns about pedestrian infrastructure and safety in the area. The goal of the pedestrian path project was to provide safe connecting paths to the nearby school, park, markets, and public transit locations.

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Virginia Street is a key corridor between Williams Elementary School and Heritage Park. The project installed approximately 1.5 miles of both sidewalks and bike lanes along this corridor. Kern County Public Health was a major partner in this project in working with the community to facilitate clean-ups at Heritage Park. Additional partners include Kern County Parks & Recreation, Bakersfield City School District, City of Bakersfield, Caltrans, Williams Elementary School, Kern Council of Governments, Bike Bakersfield, and local resident Jeanette M. Calvillo.

Kern County Public Works applied for a grant from Caltrans' Active Transportation Program (ATP) and were awarded the grant in the amount of \$2,173,000. The path construction phase began in November 2021

and was completed in Summer 2022. In total, the project cost approximately \$2,455,000 with Kern County Public Works contributing \$448,086 and the ATP grant funding of \$2,006,914.

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