

Media Alert

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Ribbon-cutting Celebrating the Di Giorgio Road Pedestrian Path Improvements *First Class I bike path in South Kern*



What: Kern County Public Works to celebrate the completion of the Di Giorgio Road Pedestrian Path Improvements with a ribbon-cutting, followed by an inaugural bike ride in partnership with Bike Bakersfield.

When: **Tuesday, March 26, 2024**
10 a.m.: Ceremony with an inaugural bike ride to follow

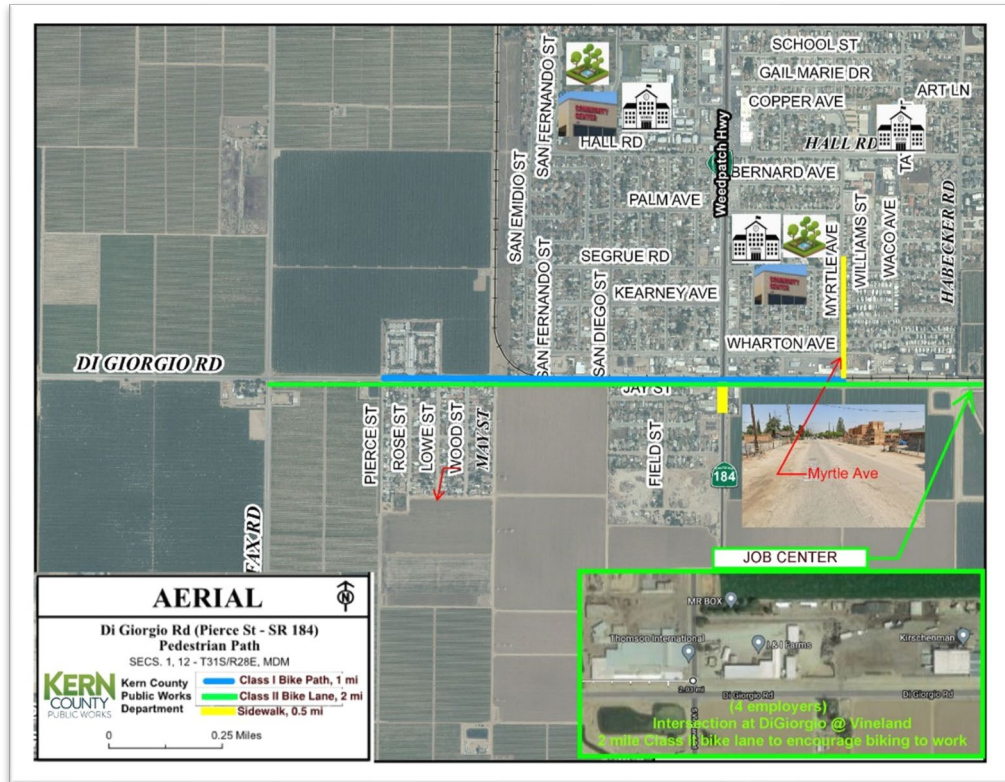
Where: **Southeast Corner of May Street and Di Giorgio Road, Lamont, CA 93241**
Park on the west side of May Street

Who: Ribbon-cutting Remarks and Attendees:

- Kern County Public Works Manager Yolanda Alcantar – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Assistant Director Salvador Gomez & Staff
- Tony Renteria, Program Manager with Bike Bakersfield
- Byanka Santoyo, with the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment and the Comité Progreso de Lamont
- Steven Kemp, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman David G. Valadao
- Juan Hernandez-Garcia, Field Representative for California State Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains

Background: Join Kern County Public Works, elected officials, and community members as we celebrate the completion of the Di Giorgio Road Pedestrian Path Improvements in Lamont.

The first of its kind in south Kern County, the Di Giorgio Road Pedestrian Path Improvements consist of pedestrian and bike path improvements in various locations throughout Lamont, including the sidewalk improvements on Myrtle Avenue.



The improvements consist of:

- One (1) mile of **Class I bike path** (two-way travel on one side of the road) on Di Giorgio Road beginning at Pierce Street and ending at Myrtle Avenue;
- Two (2) miles of **Class II bike lane** on Di Giorgio Road beginning at South Fairfax Road and ending at South Vineland Road; and,
- A half (½) mile of sidewalk on Myrtle Avenue beginning at Di Giorgio Road and ending at Segrue Road

A **Class I bikeway**, commonly referred to as a **bike path**, can be seen along rivers, canals, parks, and campuses, including the Kern River Parkway in Metro Bakersfield.

A **Class II bikeway**, also known as a **bike lane**, can be seen along streets in corridors where there is substantial bicycle traffic.

The improvement project is a partnership between the Housing Authority of Kern County, Americana Community Development, and Kern County Public Works.

Funding for this project, from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program through the Strategic Growth Council, was approved in 2018, with the Mountain View Village being completed in 2020 and the Di Giorgio Road Pedestrian Path Improvements' final component completed in February 2024.

The AHSC Program is designed to fund projects that allow Californians to drive less by ensuring housing, jobs, and key destinations are accessible by walking, biking, and transit.

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The total project cost was \$8.2 million, which led to the building of the Mountain View Village off Main Street/Weedpatch Highway – a 40-unit affordable housing complex.

Of the \$8.2 million, the pedestrian and bicycle improvements were \$2.1 million with Kern County Public Works matching approximately \$260,000 totaling nearly \$2.4 million.

This project is estimated to save more than 6,500 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from being released over the lifespan of these projects through the design of green buildings that use renewable energy and improvements to the active transportation network in Lamont encouraging residents and the local workforce to bike, walk, and use Kern Transit. This project connects residents of Mountain View Village and the Di Giorgio community to the greater Lamont-area schools, jobs, shopping centers, parks, and Kern County Human Services' local office.

For more information, visit our website at www.kernpublicworks.com and follow us on Facebook [@KernCountyPublicWorks](https://www.facebook.com/KernCountyPublicWorks).

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