

Groundbreaking site for roadway changes

Portions of a groundbreaking ceremony for the Ben Maddox Way overcrossing improvement project have been moved because of weather concerns.

The 10 a.m. Friday event will begin at Visalia Ford, 1300 E. Mineral King Ave., where there will be a program and project overview. The groundbreaking itself will be at the northeast corner of Noble Avenue and Ben Maddox.

The project is the largest funded by stimulus funds in Tulare County.

The project was originally fully funded as a Measure R regional project slated for construction in 2012. However, the city of Visalia has moved this project up two years because of \$6.4 million in stimulus funds and a \$1.5 million federal earmark.

The project, slated to begin construction in January, will take the overcrossing from four to eight lanes, relieving traffic congestion. Three existing traffic signals will be upgraded.

The project is estimated to be completed in 2011.