



NEWS RELEASE

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83 Year Old Marin Thoroughfare Gets Upgrades

REHABILITATION OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BOULEVARD THROUGH SAMUEL P. TAYLOR PARK

San Rafael, CA - Repair and resurfacing of a 5.2 mile section of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard through Samuel P. Taylor Park is scheduled to begin this summer by the Marin County Public Works Department. Originally constructed in 1929, the road is in need of major rehabilitation. Given its location in one of the most environmentally and aesthetically-sensitive corridors in the County, the project has already undergone an exhaustive three-year public outreach, environmental review, and permitting process.

Board of Supervisors President, Steve Kinsey, explained, "*...with these long awaited improvements, we're finally able to address our infrastructure needs in this sensitive corridor while ensuring protection of its unique environment*".

To avoid impacting the protected spotted owls in the area, construction work will not begin until August and must be completed by November. The rehab project, funded with Measure sales tax revenue designated for West Marin, features resurfacing the road, repair and/or replacement of 72 drainage culverts crossing the roadway, and the repair of a slide just west of Lagunitas. The work will be conducted in two phases over the next two summers due to the short construction window and to accommodate permitting agencies' schedules and issues. Phase 1 - in construction this summer - covers roughly the easterly third of the road section and includes the slide repair.

The first order of work will be the slide repair followed by repairs to the culverts. All but 7 of the 72 culverts will be stabilized using a procedure called "sliplining," which strengthens the culvert by inserting fiberglass reinforcement. This procedure minimizes environmental impacts, minimizes impacts to traffic, and is extremely cost effective.

The last order of work will be road resurfacing. The adopted project alternative keeps the same road width and sets conditions on the work that ensure protection of

the area's sensitive environment. Vehicle turnouts will be improved to allow safe passing of slower vehicles.

During construction, the roadway will remain open to traffic with flaggers. Drivers will be encouraged to consider alternate routes as delays are expected. Message boards will be placed in advance. Project information can be found on the Public Works Department website: www.co.marin.ca.us/dpw .

A number of public meetings were held regarding the project and an environmental impact report was prepared and certified. The project requires permits from a number of state and federal agencies. County staff has been working closely with the permitting agencies from the start, to provide specifics and respond to questions regarding potential environmental impacts. All parties have been proceeding with painstaking caution to ensure that all reasonable and necessary measures are taken to protect the environment. County staff is still working to secure permits for the Phase 1 work and anticipates having them in place by August. County and permit agency staff will work closely together during Phase 1. Should that process result in project refinements, they would then be incorporated into Phase 2.

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