



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** October 25, 2006  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Realignment of Francisco Boulevard West Completed Early**

San Rafael, CA – California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) announced today that construction to realign Francisco Boulevard West has been completed one month ahead of schedule.

“TAM is very pleased that the commitment to local businesses to have the new alignment done by Thanksgiving has been more than met,” said Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director of TAM. “The effort of Caltrans and the City of San Rafael, along with the contractor, is greatly appreciated.”

“I’d like to extend my gratitude to the people of Ghilotti Construction,” said Robin Bacci, Owner of R.A.B Motors, Inc. “From day one, they’ve been nothing but professional and accommodating. And by completing the job ahead of schedule, they’ve made a lot of San Rafael businesses very happy.”

The construction on this section of Francisco Boulevard West involved realigning the road to allow U.S. 101 to be expanded. Additional improvements included new sidewalks, new drainage facilities, and burying the utilities underground.

“The completion of this phase of Segment 3 ahead of schedule is a milestone for partnership among Caltrans, TAM, the City of San Rafael and the contractor to improve transportation in Marin County,” said Dan McElhinney, Caltrans, District 4 Chief Deputy Director. “All parties involved worked very hard together to help push this improvement project forward and beat the deadline.”

The realignment of Francisco Boulevard West is the first phase of the Central San Rafael segment of the Highway 101 Gap Closure Project. The goal of the Gap Closure Project is to provide a continuous High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), or carpool lane, through Marin County. The Central San Rafael project is one of four segments, and is divided into two phases: realigning Francisco Boulevard West to allow for expansion of the adjacent section of Highway 101; and, constructing a new 101/580 flyover and widening 101 to provide HOV lanes in the northbound and southbound directions. The estimated completion date for the project is December 2008.

The realignment of Francisco Boulevard West was scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving 2006 but was completed a month ahead of schedule.

A Grand Opening Celebration for the new Francisco Boulevard West will take place on Friday, October 27, 2006 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at R.A.B Motors, Inc. Parking is available in the lot adjacent and to the south of R.A.B. Motors, Inc. Refreshments and light food will be provided.

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