



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 4, Oakland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Overnight Work for U.S. 101 Widening in Santa Rosa Continues at Sixth Street and College Avenue

Santa Rosa-Caltrans crews worked overnight on Sixth Street's new middle bridge, hitting difficulties as they literally encountered the Old Redwood Highway. Because of this, special means are needed to construct the new Sixth Street bridge as part of the Downtown Santa Rosa viaduct section of U.S. 101. Caltrans is placing sheet piles in the earth and generally are able to do this operation with a quieter vibratory hammer, which disturbs people in the area less than an impact hammer. Having hit the Old Redwood Highway using the vibratory hammer, crews resorted to using an impact hammer sometime overnight Wednesday, causing a disturbance to Santa Rosa residents.

The work continues Thursday night. While it may not seem optimal to do this work at night, a crane operating the impact hammer with a ten foot piston must operate from the freeway above the Sixth Street median area. Caltrans crews must take a lane in order to properly position and operate the crane. Closing lanes earlier backs traffic up for miles. While the noise is a nuisance, performing the impacting hammering at night is deemed the safest possible scenario for both motorists and crews given the necessary precautions crews must take in operating cranes for both motorists and crews. Caltrans will reevaluate the situation to determine safe alternatives to pile driving at night.

After completing one side of the initial sheet piling driving early Friday morning, residents can anticipate further night work sometime in the coming weeks, with dates yet to be announced.

The College Avenue southbound 101 westernmost bridge continues to be demolished overnight. For safety reasons, this work must be done while College Avenue is closed. Crews will work tonight, Sunday, and Monday night to complete the demolition. This work is also causing some noise in the area. Crews demolish, breakup the old bridge sections, clean up debris, then prepare for a morning reopening of College Avenue.

Caltrans apologizes for inconveniences like noise due to the construction. Caltrans is making great progress on the Santa Rosa widening project and appreciates the public's patience continued with the work.

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