



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Caltrans Lowers Steele Lane Bridge into Place Overnight

**Santa Rosa-**Caltrans closed the Steele Lane undercrossing of U.S. 101 Thursday night to lower a 500- ton steel and concrete bridge into place between two existing bridge sections, as part of the U.S. 101 widening project. The lowering operation was a success.

Crews used eight hydraulic jacks and precision measurement techniques to keep the structure level throughout the lowering process. At any one time, the 500-ton section moved no more than one quarter of an inch. Crews lifted the bridge slightly, removed a shim, or steel plate, from one of two directions, then released the bridge to rest at a lower elevation. Crews repeated this process until the bridge lowered 28-inches into place.

The bridge section was built above the existing roadway level so that the several feet of wooden forms, or falswork surrounding the bridge during construction, would not interfere with the exiting vertical clearance on Steele Lane. After paving the bridge section rests flush with the existing bridges across Steele Lane.

This is a significant step in the work around Steele Lane because southbound traffic will move to the new lanes at the former median around Bicentennial, travel on the new roadway, allowing crews to start work on demolishing and rebuilding the southbound bridge at Steele Lane. The new bridge area of Steele Lane will be ready for traffic after paving, striping, setting barriers, and placing signs.

College Avenue will also undergo a similar bridge lowering around the middle of November.

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