

**Sonoma 101 Widening & Soundwall Construction (Wilfred to Route 12)  
Final Negative Declaration/Final Environmental Assessment**

**Comment #18 (page 1 of 2) - Oral Testimony**

1           many people said, "Remove the Berlin Wall. That's the  
2           only way we can reunite Santa Rosa." I'm saying this is  
3           the way to do it.

4                        What I would do in place of the present  
5           elevated freeway is a boulevard at surface level, a  
6           four-lane divided boulevard, tree lined, with timed  
7           traffic signals. And that would be our new north/south  
8           main street. That would do two things. It would  
9           restore the quality of life in downtown Santa Rosa by  
10          reconnecting Railroad Square to the rest of downtown,  
11          and it would solve the local traffic problems especially  
12          at College Avenue and Steele Lane because they're not  
13          dealing with a freeway anymore; we're dealing with a  
14          boulevard. That's it basically.

15                      S.C. MCCOWN: In my opinion, sound walls are  
16          not necessary. They are costly and not as effective as  
17          plants and trees. We have a beautiful county. Sound  
18          walls are impersonal and a deterrent to that beauty.

19                      The freeway through Danville, California,  
20          used to be lovely. Now it is like traveling through a  
21          concrete tunnel. Sound walls have not been proven to  
22          diminish noise. In some cases like Danville the sound  
23          travels up and impacts areas miles from the sound walls.  
24          Plants and trees are a more healthful alternative.

25                      JAMES BRENTON: Let's see. I'm the owner of

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1           4155 and 4159 Santa Rosa Avenue. And I'm also the  
2           manager of Allied Building Products on Santa Rosa  
3           Avenue. I have been the manager there for 20 years.  
4           And our concern is the traffic down Santa Rosa Avenue  
5           after 12 in the afternoon on Thursdays and Fridays; you  
6           can't drive on Santa Rosa Avenue because of the traffic.  
7           You can't get out from my business.

8                         And I propose -- and what we need to do is  
9           to widen Santa Rosa Avenue to four lanes from the  
10          freeway where 101 connects in the south to Todd Road. I  
11          think that would help the safety issues. It would also  
12          help the businesses on Santa Rosa Avenue. And I, for  
13          one, would be willing to pay that through taxes or  
14          assessments. And that's about all I have to say.

15                        Can I ask for a response? Can you respond  
16          to me? Please respond in writing to 4159 Santa Rosa  
17          Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95407. Thanks.

18                        PAUL OGASAWARA: I have been told that the  
19          Caltrans people here don't have any authority on where  
20          the funds are being directed. The Sonoma County Transit  
21          Authority are the ones that are directing this project.  
22          I think this project is totally wasteful and will not  
23          solve the traffic congestion. What is needed is to  
24          direct the funds to relieve congestion at Highway 12 and  
25          s101 at the on ramps and off ramps, and also lengthen

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**Response to #18 - Oral Testimony  
James Brenton**

Comment  
Number

Response

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See response for 14-C.

Caltrans will send a copy of the approved environmental document to the address listed in this oral testimony.