

New La Fonda Bridge takes shape

Temporary support beams placed as part of auxiliary lanes project



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

The structural skeleton of the new La Fonda Bridge now spans Highway 1.

Highways
By RAMONA TURNER

streetsmarts@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — The new La Fonda Bridge is taking shape over Highway 1.

The overcrossing replaces the 64-year-old structure that was torn down in August as part of the \$21 million Highway 1/Morrissey auxiliary lanes project, which is adding one lane in each direction of the highway between Soquel Drive and Morrissey Boulevard.

Friday and Saturday nights, construction crews with RGW Construction of Livermore began installing “false work,” or temporary support beams, and plywood decking across the highway.

The work included lane closures and detours.

“The beams are up across the highway,” said Karena Pushnik, spokeswoman for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the agency heading up the project. “We’re going to continue working stem forms going across the whole stretch of La Fonda. The week after the (Memorial

SEE BRIDGE ON A2



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Crews prepare the forms to pour the road onto the new La Fonda Bridge.

BRIDGE

Continued from A1

Day) holiday weekend, we will do a concrete pour across the deck and the stem forms.”

There will be two different pours, said Pushnik, with the first occurring after the holiday.

“There will be lines of concrete trucks on both sides of the overcrossing,” she said.

Concrete will be poured on the ocean side of the bridge first, with work starting around 9 a.m., after classes get underway at nearby schools.

The shuttle that stops at Oak Way and La Fonda Avenue will be moved for one

day of the project.

Meanwhile, drilling on the sound walls will begin this week, as soon as the equipment arrives, Pushnik said.

Signs and fliers notifying

LA FONDA BRIDGE

There are three stages of rebuilding the La Fonda Bridge, a six- to eight-month process. They are:

1. Building the bridge abutments at each side of the bridge: This involves excavating footings, drilling holes and filling with reinforcing steel and concrete; building the abutment footing and walls with reinforcing steel and concrete; and backfilling the dirt around the sides and front of the abutment.
2. Center columns: build footing, then columns, with reinforcing steel and concrete.
3. Bridge structure including deck and utilities: Crews build temporary supports, or false work, including steel beams and timber posts; build deck bottom and sides with reinforcing steel and concrete; install utilities through the bridge; build top deck; cure concrete 10 to 28 days; remove false work; build sidewalks and railing; install fencing and lighting; rebuild the approaches to the bridge; clean up; and reconnect gas, water, electricity, phone and cable.

DETAILS: <http://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/reconstruction.pdf>

SOURCE: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

area residents and passersby of the work will be posted. Commission staff members also are working closely with the schools regarding how the next phase of the project impacts

them, she said.

The project is expected to wrap up late this summer.

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