

# CITY INSTALLS ROUNDABOUT TO RELIEVE CONGESTION

Busy Clifford and Pennsylvania intersection closed for five weeks



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Granite Rock Co.'s Marc Burrell, left, and Chris Perez perform a machinery do-si-do on Monday as construction begins on the city of Watsonville's first roundabout at the intersection of Pennsylvania Drive and Clifford Avenue.

**By Donna Jones**

djones@santacruzsentinel.com  
@DonnaJonesSCS on Twitter

**WATSONVILLE »** A \$535,000 project to construct a roundabout at Pennsylvania Drive and Clifford Avenue started Monday, closing the busy Watsonville intersection until Aug. 15.

The roundabout, the city's first, is designed to relieve traffic congestion and reduce polluting emissions from idling vehicles.

"It's an exciting project for the city because it provides traffic improvements and helps out the environment," said city engineer Murray Fontes. "We are appreciative of our residents for their support of the project and patience with the delays caused by the construction."

The project was scheduled to take advantage of summer vacation when traffic from the

areas three schools is reduced.

Fontes said the goal was to have the roundabout in service by the time classes start again on Aug. 18.

The roundabout replaces a four-way stop in a neighborhood crowded with apartment complexes and near three schools. In addition, Pennsylvania, which links Green Valley Road with Main Street, and Clifford, which connects Main with Freedom Boulevard, are used by motorists to get across town.

Roundabouts are designed to slow rather than stop traffic. Motorists enter and circle counterclockwise until reaching their desired exit.

Santa Cruz installed a roundabout at Pacific Avenue and Center Street in 2010 to relieve congestion in the beach area, and in June the City Council gave preliminary approval to a second one at

**TRAFFIC » PAGE 4**



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Construction has begun on Watsonville's first roundabout.

## WATSONVILLE DETOUR

Construction of a roundabout at Pennsylvania Drive and Clifford Avenue will close the intersection to motorists until Aug. 15.

**Pennsylvania Drive:** Local traffic only between Clifford Avenue and Green Valley Road.

**Clifford Avenue:** Local traffic only between Freedom Boulevard and Pennsylvania Drive. To access Freedom Boulevard from Main Street via Clifford, go left on Hammer, left on Arthur Road, right on Alta Vista Street.

## Traffic

FROM PAGE 1

West Cliff Drive and Beach Street.

Monday, Miguel Silva was one of more than dozen mo-

torists making a U-turn after rolling up to the closed intersection on Clifford in a 10-minute span around noon. After being told about the project, he said any temporary inconvenience would be worthwhile.

"That sounds perfect, es-

pecially for the little kids going to school," said Silva, who lives on the east end of Clifford. "(The closing) is not a big deal. I can just use Freedom."

The project also includes pedestrian improvements, as well as new lighting and

landscaping.

Granite Rock Co. is the contractor for the project.

Funding comes from gas taxes, traffic impact fees paid by developers and a \$198,540 grant from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.