

UPGRADE THE DRAKE

Noise Mitigation During Construction

Upgrade the Drake is an 18-month construction project undertaken by the County of Marin to rehabilitate 2.2 miles of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard between Highway 101 and the southern limit of the Town of Ross. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard is a major east-west corridor located in Marin County, and connects community members to key destinations, schools, and activity centers. Once completed the project will improve traffic flow, public transit operations, and pedestrian and bicyclist circulation and safety.

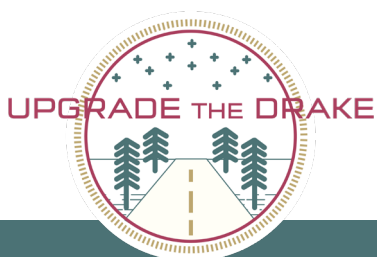
To minimize traffic disruptions during peak travel times, a significant portion of the construction will occur during nighttime hours. The County is prioritizing minimizing noise disturbance for nearby neighborhoods and, along with the construction team, the County is implementing several strategies to minimize construction noise. For example, construction work that does not require lane closures will be scheduled during the day. This will include most of the concrete demolition for sidewalk replacement.

In addition, the construction team is accelerating construction activity to take advantage of current lighter-than-normal traffic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. To limit noise disturbance at night, the construction team shifted nightwork hours to 3 p.m. until midnight. As traffic begins to return, there may be more traffic during the afternoon working hours. The project team will continue to monitor both the traffic and noise and make adjustments as necessary.

The County is also monitoring noise levels during night work to assure that construction noise remains within the allowable levels. The Contractor will be utilizing sound barriers when necessary to maintain allowable levels during nightwork. These physical barriers are intended to dampen the transmission of construction noise.

Additionally, the contractor has equipped all tractors and heavy equipment with a specialized multifrequency backup alarm that sends a white noise pulsing wave sound instead of the classic beeping sound. The new sound is directional which reduces noise from the sides of the equipment. A video example of how the backup alarm works is available [here](#).

For any additional questions or concerns for the project team, please send an email to info@upgradethedrake.com, or leave a voicemail on the project hotline at (415) 688-7613.



Sound Comparison Chart

Whisper	20 dB
Bird calls	40 dB
A/C unit	60 dB
Garbage disposal	80 dB
Allowable noise level for construction	
Motorcycle	100 dB
Chain saw	120 dB
Aircraft carrier deck	140 dB
Jet take-off	150 dB