



# NEWS RELEASE

[www.marincounty.org/news](http://www.marincounty.org/news)

For Immediate Release

November 30, 2016

## **Substantial Upgrades Made to Novato's Olive Ave**

*Half-mile stretch of Olive Ave gets widened bike lanes and other improvements*

**San Rafael, CA** – The [Marin County Department of Public Works](http://www.marincounty.org) (DPW) has completed a series of improvements to a half-mile leg of Olive Avenue that connects downtown Novato to Highway 37. A popular route for cars and bicycles alike, the portion of the road between the county line and 2700 feet north of Atherton Avenue has been in need of upgrades for a while. This \$496,495 undertaking was funded by a one-time project reserve from the County's General Fund.

Team Ghilotti Inc. of Petaluma handled the construction, which began on August 29 and was completed November 15. This entire section of Olive Avenue now has a Class II bike lane on both sides of the 2 lane road. Prior to this project, the road did not have a formal bike lane, despite being a regular route for cyclists. To accommodate the pavement widening, a new retaining wall was installed. This wall will also serve to improve overall traffic safety by fixing the line-of-sight where the road curves at Club Drive.

In addition to the bike lanes and retaining wall, the half-mile length of road was resurfaced and drainage was improved at key points. Traffic striping and pavement markings were implemented to increase safety through the area.

The City of Novato recently completed a similar bike lane project within its city limits on an adjacent section of Olive Avenue. The city and county planned these projects in conjunction, a move that was announced at a public meeting in April 2015. The updating of Olive Avenue is in line with the [Marin County Unincorporated Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan](#), which was initiated in March 2008.

"The combination of these projects marks a significant gap closure in the greater bike lane network of Marin," says Eric Miller, DPW Associate Civil Engineer. "These improvements add a new level of safety for all travelers along this stretch of road."

###

### **Contacts:**

#### **Ernest Klock**

PRINCIPAL CIVIL ENGINEER  
Department of Public Works

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 304  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 6552 T  
415 473-3232 TTY  
[eklock@marincounty.org](mailto:eklock@marincounty.org)  
[Public Works website](http://www.marincounty.org)

#### **Eric Miller**

ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER  
Department of Public Works

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 304  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 6354 T  
415 473-3232 TTY  
[emiller@marincounty.org](mailto:emiller@marincounty.org)  
[Public Works website](http://www.marincounty.org)