

## 45th St. Viaduct work shut down because of dispute over piling

A dispute over the strength of the piling being driven to support a new section of the Northeast 45th Street Viaduct has stopped work on that part of the \$1 million project.

City Engineer Paul Wiatrak said a stop-work order was issued to the Dale Madden Construction Co. His staff is reviewing the problem and hopes to go back to the contractor

by late tomorrow with a proposal to get the job going again.

**WIATRAK SAID** the disagreement is over whether the contractor's installation of the piles meets city specifications.

Dale Madden, the contractor, said the dispute is a matter of interpreting specifications differently. He criticized what he called poor engineering practices of the city to let the job continue until it is nearly half done, then request that it be redone.

Madden said he has had to lay off 8 of the 20 workers on the job and if

a settlement isn't reached soon all work will stop. He said the work being done now does not affect the schedule and every day that putting in the piles is delayed puts the project behind.

Madden added there is disagreement about other unspecified aspects of the project as well.

**THE VIADUCT**, a main link from Northeast Seattle to the University District and the Freeway, has been closed since work began early in January. Officials hope the work will be completed before the football season begins at the University of Washington.

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