

# Beach detour plan adopted

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SANTA CRUZ — Despite last-minute pleas from beach area residents, the City Council Tuesday unanimously adopted a detour plan around construction of the Riverside Avenue Bridge.

The detour will almost certainly clog traffic in the tourist-popular beach area through the crowded summer season.

It will convert portions of Beach Street and Front Street from one-way to two-way traffic. To make way for more traffic lanes, the plan will eliminate parking along portions of Front Street, Pacific Avenue, Beach Street, Riverside Avenue and other streets. The changes will go into effect later this month and

remain in effect for the estimated 10 to 12 months of bridge construction.

The plan also calls for installation of new parking meters in some of these areas.

Construction of the new bridge — the old one is being demolished — is expected to start in February.

Beach Area Residents Association President Geraldine Shelley told the council that she and other residents felt excluded from the planning of the detour, and that it was unfair to people living in the neighborhood.

"I think that we are going to be landlocked every Saturday and every Sunday," said Shelley.

Referring to traffic rerouting at Pa-

cific Avenue and Front Street, Shelley said, "I encourage you to, please, before you vote, go ... and see how dangerous that intersection is."

Another resident, Ira Randall, expressed the concern of locals who would lose parking near their homes.

"The present plan is to eliminate their parking on Front Street," said Randall. "We would sure appreciate some help on this." The detour will eliminate 100 parking spaces in the beach area and 107 spaces downtown.

Councilwoman Jane Yokoyama defended the proposal, saying that "concessions were made to protect residents and to protect businesses. I really think it's a fair proposal as it stands."

The proposal calls for installation of parking meters to increase turnover of parking spaces. Washington Street, Center Street and Pacific Avenue may get new meters, as well as the first floor of the parking garage at River and Front streets in the downtown area.

Flood waters damaged the Riverside Avenue bridge in 1982, and the city has been planning its replacement since then. Although the bridge was scheduled to be closed and the detour had been planned since 1988, the Oct. 17 earthquake hastened the construction schedule.

"The detour sort of implemented itself on Oct. 17," said Councilman John Laird.