

# Transportation experts to discuss needs of Live Oak area

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The trouble with traffic will be discussed tonight when county transportation experts meet with Live Oak residents.

"What we're looking for is to have people come to that meeting and tell us what their priorities are," assistant transportation planner Martin

■ Live Oak traffic study meeting, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Live Oak school cafeteria.

Carver said. "Not only that, but if there's anything we've missed."

Targeted for study by the county's Transportation Commission, Live Oak traffic has been counted and assessed for

the past several months. Mechanical traffic counters have helped measure density, and human helpers have counted the types of moves, such as right turns or left turns, vehicles make at various intersections.

"It gives you an idea of the traffic flow through an intersection," Carver said.

Engineering analyses of accidents documented by the California Highway Patrol have also been done, he said, to see if patterns can be determined, which would suggest ways to improve traffic.

Traffic, Carver pointed out, refers not only to vehicles, but to bicyclists and pedestrians as well. The study not only includes information on such

things as bike lanes, sidewalks and streets, it considers the effects that schools, shopping and recreation areas have on traffic.

One of the traffic study's prime supporters has been the Live Oak Community Assn. "This is the first step in many to come," member Rob Bremmer said of the scheduled meeting.

His organization has pushed for improvements in several areas, he said, and has submitted a list of priorities to the county's planning department. That's part of the reason Bremmer is urging residents to attend the meeting.

"I would feel better if we had more community input on that," he said.

Among the areas the group has targeted are the intersections of 17th Avenue and East Cliff Drive — "probably the worst intersection in Live Oak," Bremmer says — and Seventh Avenue and Eaton Street, which suffers because of its proximity to the beach.

"Cars were backed up to the beach on Saturday" Bremmer said, "and it's wintertime."

Also on the list for improvements is 17th Avenue from East Cliff Drive to Capitola Road, which Bremmer said should be widened. Sidewalks are needed in the areas of Green Acres and Del Mar schools. Chanticleer Avenue, which intersects Capitola Road near Live Oak school, also needs improvements.

Which streets need sidewalks, and where, as well as how much money people would be willing to pay for improvements, are the types of questions residents can answer at tonight's meeting, Bremmer said.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Live Oak school cafeteria.

Carver said the traffic study should be completed by March. It will then go to the Transportation Commission for approval and should be before the Board of Supervisors in May.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, money will have to be found to implement the study, which also includes

suggestions on how to accomplish that.

"Getting money from new developers as they come in," Carver said, is one way to finance improvements, but it's also dependent on development.

Another possibility is to form a county service area, where residents pay into a fund for improvements in their community.

Carver stressed, though, that he wants Live Oak residents to tell the county how they want to fund improvements in their neighborhood, not the other way around.

In any case, implementation is expected to take many years to complete. "We're talking about millions of dollars worth of improvements," Carver said.