

Traffic Patterns

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# More Traffic Signals Coming To 41st Avenue

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The Capitola City Council Monday night gave the green light to installing traffic signals at freeway and Gross Road intersections on 41st Avenue.

The Gross Road signals were added to the program at the urging of residents, who turned in a 700-name petition.

Council members received two other petitions calling for stop signs at the intersection of Saxon and El Salto avenues and for a permit parking program on certain village streets.

The council's action on the 41st Avenue signals came in the form of adopting an agreement with the county and state for the \$300,000 project.

City Manager Max Kludt explained that the city's share of the project would be limited to \$75,000 and that money already has been budgeted. The county, he said, will chip in \$25,000 and the state, using federal funds, will pick up the rest of the tab.

Work on the project, Kludt said, is expected to begin "by at least June."

The project will include realignment of

freeway offramps on both sides of the freeway to improve stacking of autos exiting onto 41st Avenue. Signals will be erected at the intersections in an attempt to improve left-turn flows.

Councilman Ron Graves objected to installing signals at Gross Road. "The proximity of two signals so close to each other is sheer folly," he said.

But, he added, he would support the plan because it was the wish of the residents. Council action was unanimous.

In a companion decision, the council also unanimously adopted an agreement with the state for resurfacing 41st Avenue between Gross and Capitola roads once the signal project is completed.

The second petition presented to the council called for replacing yield signs with stop signs at the intersection of Saxon and El Salto avenues on Depot Hill.

Councilmen Jerry Clarke and Robert Garcia, who live in that area, urged immediate action, but gave in to Mayor Mick Routh's more moderate approach.

"The way to do this is to have staff draw up a resolution, get police department input and bring it back for adoption at our next meet-

ing," Routh urged.

His suggestion won unanimous support.

Council members received their third petition from village area residents who urged permit parking for residents on San Park Place and San Jose, Cherry, Stockton and California avenues.

Residents said permits are needed because of the lack of off-street spaces and the crunch of summer beach parking in the neighborhood.

Among the proposals was that permit parking be in effect all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday and between 3:30 p.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

The council directed staff to report back with proposals for such a permit plan.

Council members had two other parking items on their lengthy agenda.

Anne Feinstein offered to sell the old Capitola Bowl property at the Esplanade and San Jose Avenue to the city for \$435,000 for use as a parking lot.

Council members agreed that the offer may be the city's last opportunity to acquire village land for a parking lot, but they didn't feel the offer was exactly a bargain.

Councilmember Carin Mudgett figured the

land might accommodate 80 cars at \$5,000 per space.

Garcia, a board member of the Metropolitan Transit District, said a parking lot there would only serve to attract more cars.

At the urging of Routh, however, the council decided not to "slam the door" on the offer and directed staff to talk with Mrs. Feinstein and see if the price and financing could be negotiated.

Illegal parking was the topic of an emergency ordinance drawn up by City Attorney Richard Manning and passed by the council.

The ordinance, in response to a federal court decision, provides that persons whose illegally parked cars are towed away be notified immediately by telephone or mail.

It further allows for an appeals hearing within 24 hours if the person whose auto was towed away feels the action is unjustified. The city must designate a person or persons to serve as appeals officers.

In a related matter, Manning informed the council of a suit against the city by a motorcycle owner whose bike was towed away during his arrest last July.