

Status Report On Santa Cruz County Highways

(Editor's Note: Following is a newsletter from J. P. Sinclair, assistant state highway engineer for this district, reporting on status of highways April 1. It is of interest to persons concerned with state highway development in the county in the relatively near future.)

A \$1.37 million project for the construction of interchanges at Park avenue and at State Park drive has been underway since November. This is the second project to convert Sign Route 1 from expressway to full freeway between Rob Roy junction and Santa Cruz and includes the construction of frontage roads between Soquel Wharf road and Aptos creek.

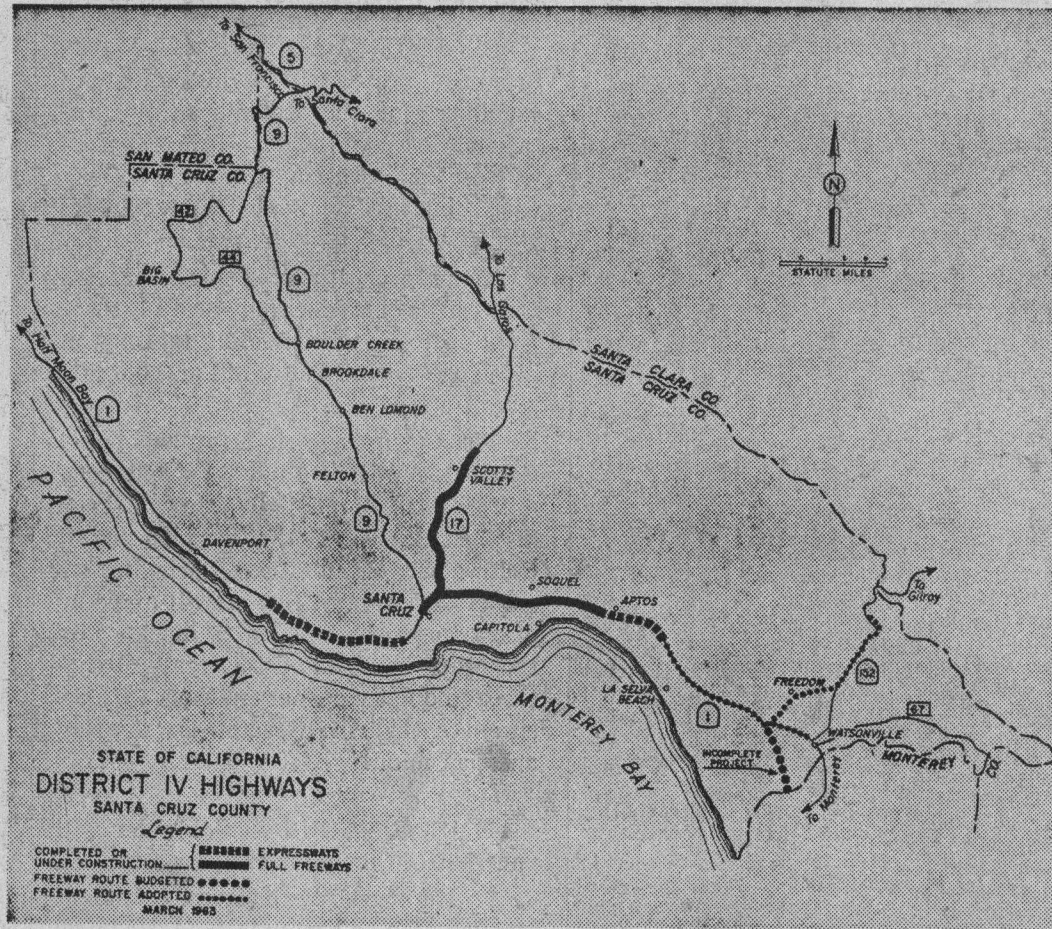
The work is approximately 27 per cent complete and the contract is expected to be opened to traffic late this year. Recent inclement weather has delayed grading operations and the contractor is now constructing drainage facilities as well as erecting girders for the State Park drive overcrossing.

A project for tree planting at State Park drive, Park avenue and 41st avenue interchanges, when the above construction has been completed, is currently under design study.

Studies also are in progress for the design of interchanges at Rio del Mar boulevard and Rob Roy junction, including frontage roads and the future addition of two lanes to the existing four-lane facility between Santa Cruz and Rob Roy junction.

The conversion of the existing facility between Rob Roy junction and two miles northerly of Watsonville to an initial four-lane (ultimate six-lane) facility also is under design study. It is anticipated that funds for these projects will not be available until after 1967.

Planning studies initiated for the portion of Cabrillo highway between the State Sign Route 1/17 (fish-hook) interchange and the west city limits of Santa Cruz



have been delayed pending review of the University of California campus studies and traffic verification.

Location studies for other routes in the Santa Cruz area, Route 116 between Felton and Sign Route 17 and Route 287 (the Santa Cruz beach loop) are delayed pending completion of planning for the new University campus in Santa Cruz and subsequent traffic verification.

The contract for functional planting and trees on State Sign Route 17 between 0.2 miles north of new Sign Route 1 and 0.4 miles north of Granite Creek road is approximately 48 per cent

complete. Present work consists of excavating planting holes and cultivating the areas for planting of ground cover.

A sum of \$9,000 was allotted for this work, which includes the planting of approximately 1100 trees (mostly redwood and Monterey pine) and 5000 miscellaneous shrubs. Almost a half million hottentot mesembryanthemum fig plants are being placed for ground cover.

Funds in the amount of \$59,600 have been budgeted for widening, resurfacing, and a channelization at the intersection of State Sign Routes 5 and 17 at Summit road. The contract was awarded

on January 25, 1963 and the work is approximately 18 per cent complete. Clearing and grubbing has been completed and roadway excavation is in progress.

Aerial mapping has been received for planning studies on 12.2 miles of improvement between 0.6 miles north of Granite Creek road and 0.5 miles south of Los Gatos road.

A sum of \$2.7 million has been included in the 1963-64 fiscal year budget for the rough grading and construction of structures on the "Watsonville bypass." This project will extend nearly four miles, from 1.2 miles south of the Pajaro river to 1.5 miles north-west of Buena Vista drive, by-

passing Watsonville to the west.

The initial work includes the placing of an embankment surcharge on the graded area to assist in the stabilization of the embankment through this marshy terrain. The surcharge will remain in place for approximately one year. The project also includes rough grading on portions of Route 67 from the new alignment on Sign Route 1 to Main street in Watsonville.

A project is being readied in design for the removal of the surcharge, paving four lanes of the ultimate six-lane freeway, and completing the structures between the Monterey county line and 0.2 miles northwest of Roach road. This work will include interchanges at Route 67, Harkins Slough road and Route 32, and paving the Route 67 connection to Main street.

Design studies are in progress for about three miles of four-lane freeway, including interchanges, between the new alignment of Sign Route 1, west of Watsonville road and one mile east of Casserly road on State Route 152. This new alignment for Hecker Pass road northerly of Watsonville was adopted on August 4, 1961.

Design studies also are being made to extend Chittenden Pass road (Legislative Route 67) westerly from its intersection with existing State Sign Route 1 to the new location along Watsonville bypass. A portion of this work will be included in the contract for paving and completion of structures on Sign Route 1 which is discussed above.

A contract was completed on January 31, 1963 for the modification of signal systems at five major intersections in Watsonville on existing Sign Routes 1 and 152 and Legislative Route 67. This work cost approximately \$24,500.

LEAN ON A LOAN

Miami (P). — Sign in the window of a finance company: "For the man who has everything but hasn't paid for it."