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6 bicycle projects to get rolling in Santa Cruz County

Mercury News Staff Writer

Six projects to promote bicycle use in Santa Cruz County have been awarded more than a half million dollars by the California Transportation Commission.

The money, from Proposition 116, which was approved by California voters in June 1990, will be distributed to the city of Santa Cruz, the Metropolitan Transit District and Santa Cruz County. Those agencies will share \$562,546.

The largest chunk of the funds, \$187,000, will go to the county for bike lanes along Chanticleer Avenue in Live Oak. Bicyclists and parents of students at Live Oak Elementary School have lobbied for bike lanes in the neighborhood.

More than \$136,000 will go to the county for installation of bike lanes along McGregor Drive, the frontage road along the south side

of Highway 1 between Capitola and Seacliff. The transit district will receive \$36,000 for installation and replacement of malfunctioning bike racks on the back of district buses.

The rest of the funds will go for bike projects on Soquel Drive, elsewhere in the unincorporated parts of the county and on Bay Street in Santa Cruz.

County Bicycle Coordinator Jack Witthaus said the grants showed the state's endorsement of "local commitment to bicycling as a serious form of transportation" in Santa Cruz County.

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