



Public Works

News & Views

Volume 2 Issue 8

January 1996

PUBLIC WORKS · CITY OF SANTA CRUZ · CALIFORNIA

Bridge

Water Street Bridge Project Update

The City Council approved a \$4,500,000 bid to rebuild the Water Street Bridge, a project that is expected to begin in early February and last up to 12 months.

The plans, recommended after an exhaustive U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study, call for raising and reinforcing the 1930's-era bridge and removing concrete arches underneath. That will allow the San Lorenzo River more room to flow, reducing the danger of flooding and bridge damage when waters rise during severe storms.

"Right now, the old arch bridges kind of blocks the flow during a flood," said Hank Myers, Public Works Department Associate Engineer. "This will remove those spans and make flood efficiency much better."

During the heavy rains of 1982, the San Lorenzo's rising waters destroyed the Soquel Avenue Bridge just downstream when fallen trees and other debris piled up against it.

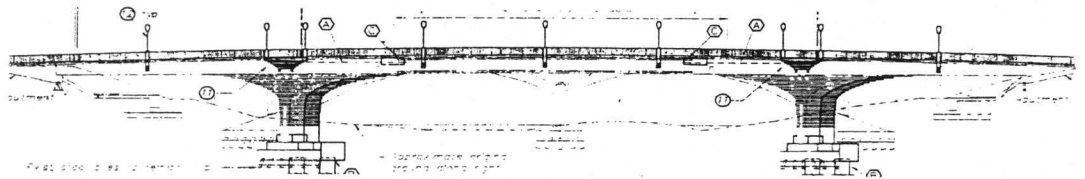
Five bridges carry automobile traffic across the San Lorenzo, from Highway 1 to the north to Water St., Soquel Avenue, Broadway-Laurel Street and Riverside Avenue to the south.

New signs will alert motorists to the temporary changes, sending down-

town-bound tourists exiting Highway 17 to Ocean Street over to the Soquel Avenue Bridge instead of Water Street.

The new Water Street Bridge will be an aesthetic improvement over the existing one, with scenic walkways and old-fashioned street lighting similar to the Riverside Avenue Bridge, Myers said. A federal highway bridge-repair

of Denver. The session will bring all the players together to establish goals and work on problem-solving methods. This approach will help eliminate claims problems during the course of the project and will foster a team-effort outlook.



program will cover 80 percent of the project's cost.

Here are some of the firms involved in this project:

Contractor: RGW Construction, Inc., from Fremont. These are the same contractors who built the bridge over the Carmel River in just 34 days. They also worked on the over-crossings on the new Highway 85.

Designers: Boyle Engineering Corporation of Sacramento.

Construction management will be handled by Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services, Inc., of San Jose.

A partnering session will be held in a couple of weeks and will be facilitated by FMI Management Consultants

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INSIDE

- Smart Shopping Seminars
- Transportation Awards
- Commission Chair/Vice-Chair
- Bike Loans are Available
- Speed Bumps in Santa Cruz?
- Commission News Update