

meeting with representatives of for parking and bike lane. Where doesn't envision the complete  
Soquel Drive merchants. there is just the 11 feet, it would high-speed bike riders will be

*Bicycle Paths*

# \$163,000 approved for bike projects

*6/16/74  
Times G.S.*

The Santa Cruz county transportation commission has approved \$163,000 in projects that will benefit bicycle riders in the midcounty.

The largest portion—\$110,000—will be used by the county public works department to construct bicycle paths on either side of Soquel Drive from a point opposite the Safeway store in the Rancho del Mar shopping center, southeast to Rob Roy junction.

The remainder—\$53,000—will be used to construct a rustic bicycle and pedestrian covered bridge across Soquel Creek at Bridge Street in Soquel.

John Fantham, the county's assistant public works director, presented the bikeway proposal Thursday to the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. Fantham said Chamber members wanted to study the proposal before making a specific recommendation on it. He said the public works department will delay the project until receiving a report from the chamber's public works subcommittee.

As proposed, the project calls for a 4-foot asphalt-paved bike path on each side of Soquel Drive except for the Spreckels Drive-Aptos Creek bridge area, which will be left in its present state.

County planners in the past have said the bridge could be widened and the Southern Pacific railroad underpass expanded to

accommodate bicycles, but Fantham says the money necessary to accomplish that work is not available at the present time.

Watsonville city councilman Joe Richards and Pajaro Valley supervisor Cecil Smith voted against the county transportation commission resolution calling for a covered pedestrian bridge across Soquel Creek in Soquel. Smith said he agreed with Richards' objections that the \$4,000 to \$5,000 needed to roof the truss-style bridge could be better used to construct additional bike lanes elsewhere in the county.

The citizens transportation advisory committee had rejected the Bridge Street proposal, made by the county public works department, but its negative recommendation was not discussed by the commission prior to the vote.

Fantham told the commission that the roof was included at the request of local residents concerned about the appearance of the bridge in the quiet residential neighborhood. It will serve as a link for pedestrian and bicycle riders travelling to and from Soquel High School and also Old San Jose Road.

Also approved was \$175,660 for a bicycle route along East Cliff Drive, \$59,000 for a bicycle route along Green Valley Road and \$20,000 for bicycle lanes on Capitola Road from Soquel Ave. to Baldwin Ave. in Capitola.