

# Two-Way Traffic Return Plan Plotted By Tedesco

By Jack Rannells

The Front street "parking lot" is retained in the staff recommendation for reversion to two-way traffic in downtown Santa Cruz, according to City Manager Peter Tedesco.

The one-block stretch between Cooper street and the post office would be open to limited two-way traffic, the southbound flow coming from the Pacific avenue turn-back.

Tedesco said this arrangement would hold down expected snarls at the post office plaza and the River-Front-Cooper confluence.

This approach will be recommended to the downtown parking commission at a special meeting in city council chambers Wednesday at 5 o'clock.

Voters Tuesday apparently repealed the one-way street ordinance by 84 votes in a referendum ballot.

Tedesco said the reversion probably will not be made until after the July 4 weekend.

"We won't get certification of the election results until about June 18. Then it's Miss California week and the Fourth," he said.

"If we just pull the one-way signs down, we'll have absolute chaos. If we're going back to two-way streets; they must be as efficient as possible."

Tedesco said the upper Front street proposal appears to be the best alternative. It has one disadvantage. Mission street traffic would be shot off from direct access to the post office lot area. This is the situation under one-way streets, but would be more complicated with two-way traffic.

The staff traffic committee sees no particular problem at the southerly end of Pacific avenue. Islands will be removed. An arterial stop will be placed on the southbound Front street lane. Two-way traffic will return to Front street extension up Beach hill.

Tedesco said a three-way signal permitting left turns appears to be only reasonable solution for River-Water intersection. The River street extension was designed for one-way traffic and has never been used two-way so the staff is not sure what problems to expect.

In answer to a question, Tedesco said the city has no basis to assume that voters did not want this street section to be two-way. It was included in the ordinance that was repealed, he said.

Tedesco was not sure the street would be retained one-way if it could be.

He said the staff has recommended that left turns be permitted at Soquel and Pacific. This was not permitted under the former two-way system.

"New signalization should make it work now," he said.

Left turns would be forbidden from Lincoln to Pacific.

Costs of reversion are being worked up by Field Services Director Donald Bruce for preliminary presentation to the city council Tuesday night and the commission Wednesday.

Tedesco said he has asked the staff advisory committee to start developing a long-range traffic program for the downtown area. This would include recommendations for new streets and bridges.

On another front, Chester Smith, owner of Santa Cruz Transit company, said any changes in bus routing and schedules hinge on actual change to two-way traffic.

"We have set up our plans. Right now we would just move back to our original routing on Pacific avenue," he said.

"We hope to meet with city officials to see if they have any suggestions while we are making the change. I sincerely hope that they can come up with some recommendations to improve our service."