

# Traffic plan is opposed by Chamber

By CAROLYN  
HEEBNER-SWIFT

The Aptos Chamber of Commerce has decided to go along with Bob McKenzie in his opposition to the community-proposed third traffic circulation alternative to the Aptos Village Traffic Plan.

McKenzie, an alternate on the county Planning Commission and a Chamber director, was the sole opponent when the third alternative was approved by the commission on a 4-1 vote last month.

He described the three alternative traffic patterns to the chamber during its meeting Thursday morning, attended by 25 persons, at the Cook Book Restaurant in Aptos. Earlier this week, McKenzie spoke to the Rio del Mar Improvement Association, saying he hoped to "undo," the commission's recommendation.

Following talks by both McKenzie and County Traffic Planner Ron Marquez, Chamber members unanimously voted to recommend the County Board of Supervisors adopt the second traffic circulation alternative which was designed by the county planning staff.

Marquez told how the county planners had recommended the first two alternatives calling for a loop road system around the village core with Granite Way extended from Cathedral Drive to the Hopkins right-of-way. Planning staff members favored the first alternative, which called for a one-way traffic pattern moving in a counter-clockwise direction on Trout Gulch Road, Cathedral Drive and Granite Way, with two-way traffic on the Hopkins right-of-way.

However, Marquez said 90 percent of those who have reviewed the plans have opposed the one-way system and favored the two-way patterns of the other two alternatives.

The third alternative is the most direct connection between the intersection of Trout Gulch Road and Cathedral Drive to the Hopkins right-of-way. It calls for the creation of a new street that would run parallel to Granite Way.

The Chamber agreed with McKenzie's objection to the cut of a new road that would split off potential commercial development from the village core.

Ron Miller and Sam Wright, developers of the Aptos Junction project behind the nearly-completed Aptos Station, said they would not willingly grant the right-of-way proposed by the third alternative. He said Granite Rock would also forbid the right-of-way without condemnation proceedings.

"The third isn't consistent with the Aptos General Plan," Miller said, "And we have already shown the connection along Granite Way on our plans."

Chamber director Glenn Specht explained that the third alternative was proposed by community members who are seeking a traffic solution "that is the best, not in terms of who owns the property, but rather what is best for the Aptos Traffic Plan and the community."

She pointed out that it was McKenzie who first offered the motion to approve the third alternative when it was proposed to the Planning Commission as a one-way traffic loop. She further argued that many Cathedral Drive residents already believe there is too much traffic on their roads, and the two staff-proposed alternatives call for a greater increase than the third suggestion.

Mrs. Specht said later that the Chamber is interested in the best overall traffic design which is least inconvenient to both developers and the community, and this is why it has been pushing the county to put together the village traffic plan.

The director also proposed an amendment to the Chamber's motion that was approved along with the recommendation of the second alternative. The amendment asks that provision be included in the traffic plan for undergrounding of utilities, and carries the Chamber's endorsement for a village parking district.

During a special session of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting, Mrs. Specht was elected as chamber president for the coming year. Brewster Burns was elected vice-president, and McKenzie was named treasurer. Elaine Williams will serve as secretary. Sam Wright was also appointed as a Chamber director to fill an unexpired term.

Outgoing President Larry Wrathall briefly reviewed the year's activities, and said he has appreciated the board's dedication and support for the projects undertaken during his tenure including the unsuccessful incorporation drive to bring the question of cityhood before Aptos voters. Wrathall added that he believes the incorporation study was instrumental in steering people toward an objective decision on the issue.

In another report, Mrs. Specht told the Chamber about an effort to initiate a Christmas bus service this year in cooperation with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. She said \$1,000 has been subscribed by shopping center merchants for a "shoppers route," to run between the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas. The route will stop at Deer Park, Redwood Village and Rancho del Mar shopping centers as well as Aptos Village.

The service, Mrs. Specht added, "will be a Christmas present from the Aptos Chamber and Aptos businesses to the community."

Eventually, she said, it may be possible for the Transit District to add a similar route to its schedule on a permanent basis.

REFERENCE

APPROVED  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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