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Median money to go for signals

Capitola is ready to divert \$200,000 from a 41st Avenue median strip into a plan to install new traffic signals at major entrances to the Capitola Mall.

The City Council last night accepted a proposal from City Manager Steve Burrell to use \$200,000 in the city's 1985-86 Redevelopment Agency budget, originally earmarked for a median strip on 41st Avenue between the freeway and Clares Street, for traffic signals that will be installed at the 41st Avenue entrance into the Mall and at 38th Avenue and Capitola Road.

Burrell argued that the median strip could either be delayed another year or a temporary asphalt berm constructed.

Installation of the signals at the two slightly-used entrances to the Mall encourage more people to use those entrances and exits, and lessen the congestion at the Clares Street-41st Avenue intersection.

Burrell is also suggesting that the city speed up plans to widen Clares Street between 40th and 41st avenues (next to the Burger King restaurant) to either three or four lanes.

A traffic consultant has proposed widening Clares Street to a minimum of three lanes (one lane for westbound traffic and two for eastbound traffic) but Burrell said recently that the city's staff would like to see Clares widened to four lanes there.

If the traffic diversion plan is successful, traffic from the proposed residential developments on Deanes Lane could be funneled out to 41st Avenue via Clares Street.

That would isolate the high-density residential development proposed for Deanes Lane from

the comparatively low density neighborhoods on Gross Road and 40th Avenue.

Residents in those areas are fighting city proposals to route upwards of 1,500 cars a day from proposed residential development through their neighborhoods.

The traffic signals and Clares Street widening will not affect several other projects planned for the upcoming budget year.

The council, at a budget study session last night, agreed with Burrell's recommendations to set aside \$50,000 as the city's contribution to a federally-financed project to build median strips on 41st Avenue between Capitola Road and the railroad tracks and install traffic signals at 41st Avenue and Brommer-Jade Streets.

It will also go ahead with plans to rebuild 42nd, 43rd and 44th Avenues, installing curb, gutters and sidewalks, using Redevelopment Agency funds.

A \$75,000 appropriation will be used to repave Wharf Road from Cliff Drive to the entrance to the city wharf, install sidewalks and landscaping. Two streets, Columbus Drive and Magellan Avenues in the Cliffwood Heights neighborhood are scheduled for pavement overlays this summer. Several other streets — Junipero Court, Elinor Street, Orchid Avenue, Wesley Street, Cabrillo Street, Sir Francis Court, Sir Francis Avenue, Coronado Street, Cortez Street, Columbus Drive, Balboa Avenue, Loma Avenue, McCormick Court and McCormick Avenue, Washburn Avenue and Younger Street — will be treated with a slurry seal of oil emulsion and sand.

The budget also includes \$198,000 rebuilding the streets in the city's Jewel Box/Fairview Tract area.