

Rio Del Mar Tunnel Concept Is Placed On The Back Burner

The concept of building a Deer Park Ridge tunnel to alleviate Rio del Mar traffic problems was placed on the back burner by RDM Improvement Association directors Monday afternoon and smaller projects instead were supported by the board.

A pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the railroad tracks on Rio del Mar Boulevard was determined to be group's most immediate goal of directors.

According to Association President Bob Curtiss, the existing narrow bridge for motorists "causes pedestrians to take their life into their hands" while crossing it.

Aptos Supervisor Robley Levy concurred with the need of a pedestrian/bicyclists access way and agreed to discuss the idea with other county officials.

The tunnel, proposed last month by former Association director Al Collins, "will not be pursued immediately," said Curtiss. Instead, directors opted to include the item in the organization's next newsletter and ask for comments or other suggestions.

The estimated 1,300-foot-long tunnel under Deer Park Ridge would be aimed at alleviating traffic that is presently clogged because of lack of

access ways into the area. Primary access currently is at Rio del Mar Boulevard and Highway 1.

The Association has fought for traffic improvements in their area for some time. Additional striping, reflective buttons and a flashing, caution light in front of RDM Elementary School have been installed recently.

There also has been discussion about installing street lights on Clubhouse Drive and RDM Boulevard.

In other business, Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Carmel, reported to the association on state fiscal problems.