

Transportation 7-025-68

Good Bus Service, Low Cost Possible

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

A bigger, better, bus system for the area from Santa Cruz to Capitola is possible at fairly low cost.

That was the theme last night of William Farrell, a transit engineer who took losing bus lines in San Diego and Long Beach and turned them into winners.

Farrell, himself, a former bus driver, outlined his report in plain talk to representatives of the Santa Cruz and Capitola city councils, other city officials, the county board of supervisors, and UCSC and local school officials.

The transit expert may have startled the officials a bit with his frank words on taking over and improving the financially sick Santa Cruz Transit Company.

Some of his major points:

- A transit district could take over much of the school bus service in the Santa Cruz, Live Oak and Capitola areas, carrying pupils much cheaper, however, helping to support the public bus line. Students would

get bus ride tickets, costing about 15 cents a ride. "No, it's not free, but don't think school buses are free either," he noted.

Schools could save money by eliminating their specially-built, expensive buses or putting the buses on runs to remote areas. Schools should not "provide school bus service for any student who has access to public transportation." Poor students should be given free bus tickets.

- University students under 21 could buy student bus tickets, but the others would pay full fare. The UCSC bus line is losing \$300 to \$400 per month on the university route, and there is "no justification" for this.

- No route to Cabrillo College should be established until it can "pay its own way."

- Fares should go up a nickel, to 25 cents but regular customers could buy tokens for 20 cents each. School fares would still be the same, 15 cents. Transfers would be free.

- "Arm twisting" on the federal level probably could get a

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