

TRANSPORTATION 1990- \$9 million waits to be spent here on transportation

By DENISE FRANKLIN
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — While state lawmakers look at where to cut spending, local transportation officials have \$9.1 million in federal funds to spend on road improvements and projects to reduce traffic congestion.

The money could be spent on such things as a bus transfer center and park-and-ride lot in Scotts Valley, a bike path linking east and west Capitola, and the widening of River Street in downtown Santa Cruz to four lanes.

The county Regional Transportation Commission will decide how to spend this money over the next three years when it meets at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the Supervisors Chambers at the County Center, 701 Ocean St.

Public works directors from throughout the county recommended projects. Their suggestions were revised by the commission's Highway Policy Committee to create a balance between road improvements and congestion relief measures.

As recommended, 62 percent of the money would go to improve existing roads.

The other 38 percent would go to help relieve congestion. For example, local jurisdictions would be given money to adopt so-called trip-reduction ordinances. These laws will require businesses to come up with ways to get employees to use alternative transportation to get to work.

The list of recommendations includes the following:

UCSC — Off-campus bicycle parking.

Capitola — Bikeway connecting east and west Capitola via a footbridge across Soquel Creek at Rispin Mansion. Trip reduction ordinance. Intersection improvements at Bay Avenue and Porter Street.

Transit District — Completion of construction of the 12-bus transfer station. Purchase of buses that meet clean air requirements. District's share of bus transfer station and park-and-ride lot in Scotts Valley.

Santa Cruz — Trip reduction ordinance. Traffic signal coordination at Laurel and Front streets and on Soquel Avenue. Study of a bike and pedestrian path linking Broadway, Brommer Street and

harbor. Improvements to the Seabright Avenue and Murray Street intersection, including left-turn lanes on Murray Street. Traffic signal improvements at Soquel Avenue and Branciforte Drive. Portion of the money needed to widen River Street.

Scotts Valley — Trip reduction ordinance. Lockewood Lane bike path from Whispering Pines Drive to Mount Hermon Road. Bear Creek Road bike path. Study of a bus shuttle service and rental or purchase of shuttle. City's share of a bus transfer station and park-and-ride lot.

Transportation Commission — Subsidy program to help businesses install bike parking. Materials to help local jurisdictions develop trip-reduction ordinances. Training of transportation coordinators selected by businesses to help employees find alternatives to driving alone to work. Outreach program by the Transportation Management Association, a group of local businesses working to cut down on congestion. Implementation of the county Congestion Management Program. Study of connecting proposed rail service from Santa Cruz to Watsonville with Caltrains stop at Watsonville Junction.

Watsonville — Bike lanes and sidewalk reconstruction on Rodriguez Street. Bike storage and showers at Muni Service Center and City Hall. Bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and traffic signal coordination on Green Valley Road. Trip-reduction plan for Pajaro Valley Unified School District employees. Traffic signal coordination at Rodriguez and Second streets. Widening and resurfacing of Freedom Boulevard between Green Valley Road and Davis Avenue.

County — Part of funding needed for bike path connecting Broadway and Brommer Street. Trip-reduction ordinance. Bike safety in schools. Traffic signal at State Park Drive and Highway 1 in Seacliff. Rehabilitation of Capitola Road, Soquel Drive, Bear Creek Road in Boulder Creek, and Soquel-San Jose Road. Signal at Glen Arbor Road and Highway 9 in Ben Lomond. Road improvements and traffic signal at Porter Street Bridge in Soquel. Repair of Green Valley Road slip-out. Repair of Old San Jose Road slide at Olive Springs Road.