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City Funds For Cedar-Vine?

L12-66

By Alan Jones
Sentinel Staff Writer

City hall might well put up a third to a half of the cost of the proposed Cedar-Vine street cut-through from general city funds, a consensus of the Cedar-Vine study committee indicated yesterday.

The committee got into the thorny issue of project financing without attempting to reach conclusions. Most of the members appeared to agree that the project could be easily sold to property owners downtown if an assessment district were supplemented by a general fund appropriation.

Major objections to the project have been removed, committeemen agreed, with passage of a city bond issue to improve key streets and widen downtown bridges. Opponents of the project one and two years ago argued that the two-block cut would do nothing by itself to relieve traffic problems.

The committee heard cost estimates yesterday indicating that the original straight-through route would be some \$42,000 cheaper than an alternate route proposed. Property acquisition costs of the alternate route would be \$509,700, compared to an estimated \$467,700 for the original path, according to rough figures prepared by an appraiser.

The original route would take the link through the Sentinel building, the old Salinas Valley Savings building, and the courthouse annex. The alternate route would take the Sentinel, then swing toward Center street to take White's mortuary and a building west of the courthouse annex.

A southerly extension of the project, to cut Cedar through and link up with Center street, would cost approximately \$320,000, estimates by the city indicate. The committee is studying the possibility of including the south-end project in the plan.

Two councilmen on the committee, Sam Leask and Norman Lezin, said they will take part in discussions but will not cast any votes in committee decisions. They had

questioned the propriety of serving both as fact-finders and councilmen, and "making recommendations to ourselves."

Chairman Ted Schipper laid out a tentative schedule for the committee which would produce its final recommendations to the city council by February 1. The committee, meeting each Tuesday, would study routing and settle that next Tuesday. On January 25 the lower-end project would be studied and settled, and financing taken up. On February 1, final questions would be settled, a committee report prepared, and a minority report made if any is required.

The committee altered the schedule last night by taking up financing immediately. Committeeman Laurence Canfield said financing is the key to the entire project, and should be settled as soon as possible.

Estimated costs of the project when it was proposed last summer were \$607,000, the bulk of that sum for property acquisition. An assessment district with concentric "benefit zones" and a sliding scale of assessments was proposed, including most of downtown Santa Cruz.

The project roused a strong property-owner protest movement, and the council side-tracked the plan.

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News In

India's Leaders Dis

New Delhi, India (AP).—Leaders of the Congress party began discussing the political body of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's funeral flames by the holy Jumna river.

More than a million mourning Indians touched the funeral pyre of sandalwood in accordance with Hindu custom.

A few moments before this final ceremony, Prime Minister Gulzarilal Nanda, climbed the pyre and stood silently, his face to the flames.

Standing nearby were Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev, U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and other foreign representatives.

Rio Death Toll To E

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (AP).—Tornadoes in Rio de Janeiro today after two days of floods caused 131 known deaths.

Candidate Seeks