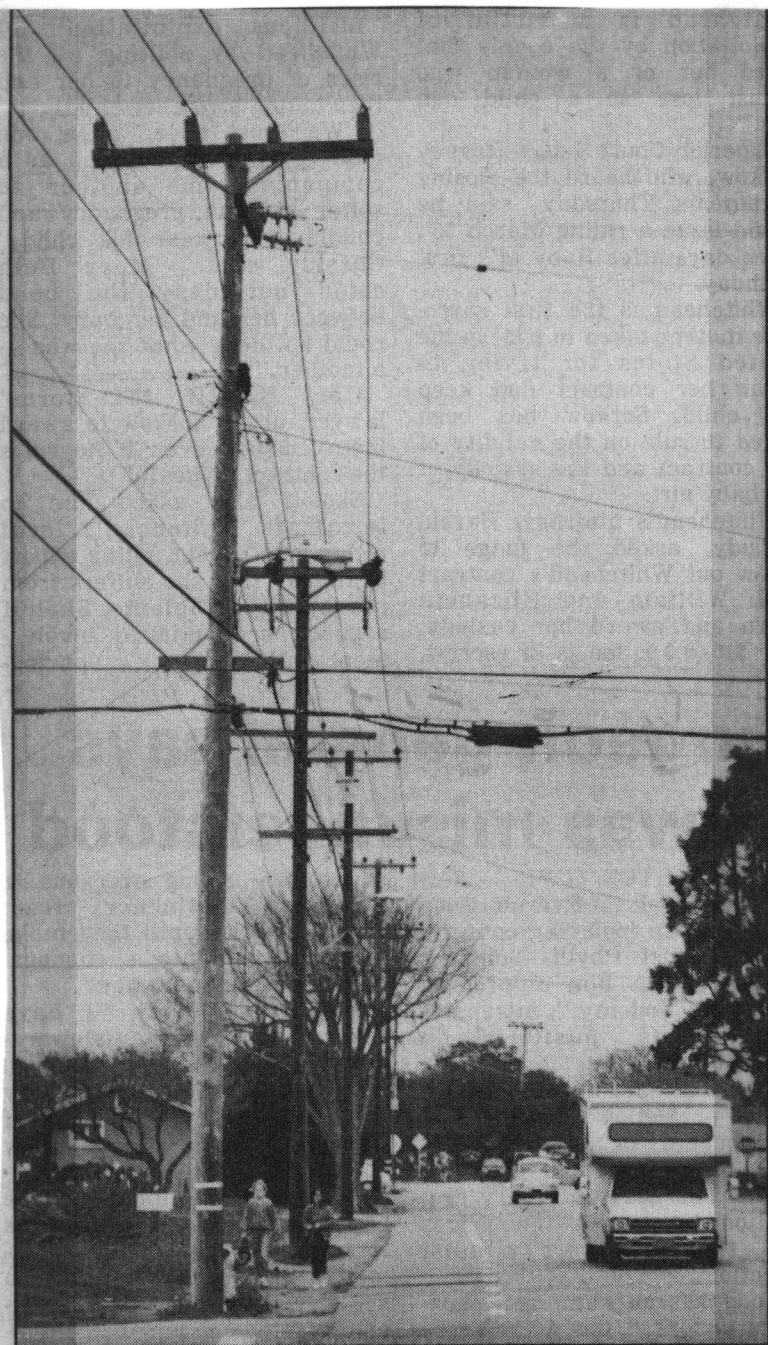


1985-
1989



Chip Scheuer

How the road in question looks today.

Road improvement wins council's OK

By JENNIFER KOSS
STAFF WRITER

Motorists entering Capitola Village from Capitola Road a few years from now will use a tree-lined, meandering roadway instead of the utility-pole-lined road that now links 41st Avenue commercialism with "village charm."

The path between the two worlds — from 45th Avenue to Wharf Road — will undergo improvements costing an estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000, according to a plan approved last night by the Capitola City Council.

Taking the first step will be PG&E. At its own expense, the company will bury utility wires, City Manager Steve Burrell said. PG&E officials estimate the engineering alone will take a year, so the work probably won't be completed until 1½ years from now.

Civil engineer Bob DeWitt briefly described some steps that will follow: Reconstruction of the roadway, the addition of drainage features, bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, bus turnouts and left-turn lanes at 45th and 49th avenues.

The plan begins at 45th

Avenue, he said, because that's where Capitola Road's four lanes of traffic narrow into two.

DeWitt estimated the cost of two plans — one at \$391,000 and an alternative that would save \$91,000 by salvaging more of the roadway. "But there's a question as to whether the drainage would be as good," with the less-expensive plan, he said.

Some suggestions from council members were that a left-turn lane be added at 47th Avenue, that improvements to a barricade on 45th Avenue be included, and that bus turnouts be located further from corners so drivers can see traffic better when crossing and entering Capitola Road.

"I think it's folly to think that we always have to place bus stops on the corners," Councilman Ron Graves said.

One woman in the audience asked that driver safety also be kept in mind when planting trees. Councilman Jerry Clarke suggested that some type of paving material other than asphalt be used for crosswalks.

The council approved a plan incorporating those comments.