

# The Sentinel

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## October Target Date For Transit Center Plans

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District hopes to complete by October its plans for a \$1.6-million terminal that will stretch from Pacific Avenue to Front Street on two parcels that include the J. C. Penney automotive center.

Scott Galloway, district manager, told business leaders at a lunch meeting Wednesday: "As a separate government agency we don't have to submit our plans to the city, but we recognize the terminal will have an impact on the downtown area and we will process the plans through the city."

Galloway called the new terminal a must, saying the buses bring from 7,000 to 10,000 persons daily to the downtown area. The current center on Soquel Avenue between Front Street and Pacific Avenue, he said, presents many problems, primarily safety.

The planning for a big downtown terminal building began some five years ago, Galloway told the Economic Concerns Committee of the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce.

The state has approved funding for 80 percent of the cost of the new "intermodal, interface transit center," where buses from Santa Clara County could meet local buses and where passen-

gers could walk or use bikes or other modes of transportation to complete their journey after reaching the downtown.

Galloway said the plan calls for extension of the Pacific Garden Mall south from Cathcart to Elm streets, but he noted that maintenance would be a city problem.

"We will extend the mall," Galloway said, "because right now the site is in 'no man's land' and we want the sense of the mall for our passengers to use."

The new terminal will feature four bus lanes, each able to accommodate four to six buses, Galloway said. Bus routing will be done to minimize traffic congestion, he said.

Galloway said the district's one-half cent sales tax has been bringing in from \$4.2 to \$4.3 million per year and that next year it is projected to bring in some \$4.8 million. But there are now federal cutbacks for transit programs, he warned, and the sales tax does not bring in nearly the operating funds needed.

Of the proposed terminal building Galloway said: "Our directors believe that the new terminal should be as significant a contribution to the appearance of downtown as the Santa Cruz City Hall, and we think it will look very good."