

Aptos Village One-Way Traffic Loop Suggested

Despite some public sentiment to the contrary, county transportation planners are recommending a one-way traffic loop system around Aptos Village.

The county Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the long-awaited Aptos Village Traffic Plan at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. It will be in the supervisors' chamber on the fifth floor of the County

Center.

Both the one- and two-way system alternatives center on Trout Gulch Road from Soquel Drive to Cathedral Drive, on Cathedral from Trout Gulch to Granite Way, and on Granite from Cathedral to Hopkins right-of-way.

Participants at a recent neighborhood meeting reportedly supported the two-

way loop, but many questioned the need for any road improvements at all.

County Transportation Planner Ron Marquez replied that the existing roadway system would not be able to handle an anticipated 17,000 new trips once the village core is fully developed. Recent traffic counts show there now are approximately 12,000 vehicle trips daily in downtown Aptos.

Steve Raas, assistant civil engineer for the county, explained the one-way loop recommendation as being "definitely preferable from the transportation-engineering point of view and the proper planning point of view."

He explained not only is it cheaper (\$313,000 compared to \$378,000), but also has the capacity to hold 50 percent more

traffic.

Since the two-way loop would require the installation of at least one signal on Soquel Drive, Raas said, the county would be faced with the prospect of taking out a signal if the two-way system proved unacceptable. "We could always install a signal, which is much easier than taking one out, if the one-way system proves unacceptable," he said.