

Traffic plan for Rio OK'd

A controversial Rio del Mar-Seascape traffic plan was approved Thursday by the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission and sent to the Board of Supervisors for implementation.

The plan calls for \$784,102 in roadway widening and pedestrian improvements in the Rio del Mar-Seascape area, with the bulk of the money needed for the work coming from a special County Service Area assessment on residents.

Intersection improvements to four major intersections, the widening of Rio del Mar Boulevard between Cliff Drive and Sumner Avenue and Sumner Avenue between Rio del Mar Boulevard and Los Altos Drive, will be paid by fees charged to new construction in the area, including the Seascape area.

The \$180,000 cost of rebuilding the Rio del Mar/Clubhouse Drive intersection in front of the Deer Park Shopping Center will be split 50-50 between the two funds.

The transportation commission staff is recommending the formation of a series of county service areas in the Rio del Mar-Seascape area to finance the homeowners' share. If the Board of Supervisors adopts the transportation staff recommendations, each home would be assessed \$187, or \$62 each year for a three-year pay back.

Representatives of the area's two homeowners' associations

Rio gets stripes and stop signs

A county Public Works Department crew wrote another chapter Monday morning in the ongoing saga of "safety stripes" on Rio del Mar's Clubhouse Drive.

The crew finally painted the controversial stripes on the street, three years after the concept was approved by the county Board of Supervisors.

At the same time, the crew installed a four-way stop at the intersection of Clubhouse Drive and Rio del Mar Boulevard.

The stripes require cars to be parked on the right hand side of the new lines. Any cars parked over the line can be ticketed by the highway patrol.

urged the transportation commission to send the plan to the Board of Supervisors for further hearings and negotiations with the residents.

Rio del Mar Improvement Association director and spokesman Vince Casey told the Transportation Commission Thursday that many of the issues still concerning the association are beyond the "technical traffic solutions" being considered by the commission.

"Our current view is that the

'traffic study' deals with both short and long term difficult and significant community problems — involving both physical alterations and funding techniques.

"We conclude total implementation of these 'traffic solutions' shall change the fundamental character of our community. While we support certain aspects for early implementation, many 'problems' and 'solutions' identified within the document require review and analysis reaching beyond the scope of 'Technical Traffic Solutions'," Casey told the commission.

Association president Mel Deerwester said that one issue still concerning many members of the association and some of the directors is the amount of money that the county is willing to contribute to the improvements. The transportation staff has budgeted a \$70,000 contribution from the county for the pedestrian improvements, largely to pay for sidewalks on either side of the Rio del Mar Boulevard railroad overpass.

Deerwester said his group feels that the county should be paying more.