

BRIDGES  
✓ City

# City group wants to save W. Cliff bridge

3-28-90

SANTA CRUZ — The West Cliff Drive bridge is narrow and old and needs to be rebuilt soon. It also may contain the only "Howe Truss" in Northern California and should be saved, according to the city Historic Preservation Commission.

The rickety old bridge across from the Dream Inn may qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, commission Chairwoman Sara Bunnett said in a report Tuesday to the City Council.

"The historic and architectural import

ance of this bridge must be recognized. This bridge is an integral part of the beach," she wrote.

Bunnet said the commission is not convinced that the bridge needs to be replaced. But if it does, she said the replacement should maintain the same appearance.

Public Works Director Larry Erwin told the council that experience has shown that CalTrans will want to replace

the bridge with the most economical design possible.

He said the city could probably chip in and pay for whatever frills it wants included in a new bridge.

At the request of Councilwoman Katherine Beiers, Erwin was directed to meet with CalTrans representatives and explore the possibility of rehabilitating the bridge rather than building a new one.