



County of Santa Cruz 0259

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA: DECEMBER 12, 2000

November 30, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING REVIEW GROUP PLAN LINE PROPOSAL FOR ALICE
STREET BETWEEN SEVENTEENTH AVENUE AND CORCORAN AVENUE

Members of the Board:

This letter describes and recommends approval of a plan line proposal for Alice Street from Seventeenth Avenue to Corcoran Avenue in the Live Oak planning area. Aerial photographs indicating the proposed plan line have been forwarded to the Clerk of the Board for your review. Attachment 1 is the location map indicating the roadway segment being considered for plan line recommendations. Attachment 2 shows the proposed street cross-sections for the plan line.

BACKGROUND

Alice Street is designated as a collector street in the County's General Plan. Alice Street currently has a 40- to 50-foot wide right-of-way, and is striped for two travel lanes. Sidewalks exist in limited areas in the center portion of the segment. On-street parking exists on both sides along the westerly and center portions of the segment, and in limited areas in the easterly segment. Alice Street is stop controlled at Seventeenth Avenue and at Corcoran Avenue. Road bumps are in place on Alice Street as a traffic calming measure. The stop signs and road bumps will remain in place when the plan line improvements are constructed.

The plan line presented for your approval has been initiated by staff to address questions about the level of improvements which would be appropriate to resolve existing drainage problems and provide pedestrian facilities. Approval of the plan line would enable staff to proceed with design of the improvements, which is funded in the current year budget. Construction would occur in a future year, depending on the identification of construction funding, completion of design and acquisition of necessary easements.

A community meeting was held on October 25, 2000 to solicit residents' concerns about the plan line proposal and the related traffic issues which are described below, and the potential impacts on both traffic and local residents. Two alternatives were presented at the meeting, to determine the level of improvements which were desired by the neighborhood. The proposed plan line is consistent with comments received from the residents at the meeting and in subsequent communications, as described below.

PROPOSED ALICE STREET PLAN LINE

The plan line for Alice Street includes a typical cross section of one travel lane in each direction, curb and gutter on both sides, and a four-foot contiguous sidewalk on the north side. No bike lanes are proposed. Total curb-to-curb width varies as described below, and parking is provided where possible. The majority of the proposed improvements are within the existing right-of-way. Additional right-of-way or easements are necessary to construct the level pedestrian pathways around driveways on the north side.

Four different curb-to-curb widths are proposed. For the first 400 feet east of Seventeenth Avenue, the width is 32 feet, with parking allowed on both sides. This width is less than the normal County standard for parking and travel lanes, but is proposed here because of the high demand for parking, relatively low traffic volumes, and proximity of homes to the street. No curb and gutter or sidewalk currently exists on this segment.

For the next 600 feet, the width is 36 to 37 feet, with parking allowed on both sides. Thirty-six feet is the local street standard. The width will vary slightly to conform to existing curb, gutter, and sidewalk. Approximately two-thirds of this segment has existing curb, gutter, and sidewalk, and these improvements will remain in place.

For the next 200 feet, the width is 24 to 28 feet, with no parking allowed because of the narrow width. This width is proposed to protect a row of cypress trees adjacent to the paved roadway on the south side and a very large cypress tree on the north side. No curb and gutter or sidewalk currently exists on this segment.

For the last 300 feet to Corcoran Avenue, the width is 30 feet, with parking on the north side only. This width is proposed because of the proximity of existing houses and other improvements to the right-of-way. More parking can be provided on the north side because there are a large number of driveways and back out parking on the south side. No curb and gutter or sidewalk currently exists on this segment.

Continuous level pedestrian pathways at driveways and sidewalk access ramps at appropriate locations will be provided to meet the accessibility requirements of the Design Criteria.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Alice Street is being considered for improvement to complete sidewalks from Seventeenth Avenue to Corcoran Avenue and to resolve existing drainage problems. The street provides an important pedestrian and vehicle access to Del Mar Elementary School, and is also used by residents of Corcoran Avenue to walk to Seventeenth Avenue and the East Cliff Village Shopping Center.

Because of limited right-of-way and the location of existing houses and trees close to the right-of-way, construction of a full collector standard, with parking and separated sidewalks on both sides, is not possible. To minimize the impact on existing improvements and vegetation, the proposed plan line includes a contiguous sidewalk on one side of the street only. The sidewalk is proposed for the north side of the street to maintain continuity with existing sidewalks, and because the pedestrian access to Del Mar School is on the north side, via Jami Lane.

Two versions of a possible plan line for the western segment of the street were shown at the community meeting. One showed widening to the 32 foot width, formalizing the edge of the public improvements with curb and gutter, providing a sidewalk on the north side, and allowing parking on the pavement. The other showed widening only enough to provide a paved asphalt swale for drainage, providing a less formal edge and allowing parking in the swale and on the unpaved shoulder, but not providing any pedestrian improvements.

There was a discussion about the need for sidewalks on Alice Street. Several residents expressed doubts about the benefits of sidewalks because of the relatively low volume of vehicular traffic on the street. However, those in favor of sidewalks pointed out that the traffic volumes are quite high during the times that school begins and ends, as a result of students being dropped off and picked up by parents, and that sidewalks are needed to improve safety. In the end, the consensus of those who attended the meeting was that a sidewalk was a positive improvement, and that the curb, gutter, and sidewalk option was preferred over the swale option.

Several people who attended the meeting expressed concern that some of their neighbors were not in attendance and might have other concerns about the proposed improvements. It was decided to provide two residents with copies of the plan line to show to those who had not been able to attend the meeting. During a two week review and comment period, staff met with a few residents to answer questions about the proposed plan. However, no comments were received from residents which were in conflict with the proposed plan line.

The overall street width varies as described above, and parking is provided on both sides where possible. Parking is eliminated on one or both sides in three limited areas, where the street width is reduced to preserve existing trees. Preservation of these trees will also serve to visually narrow the street, minimizing the apparent width of the improvements. No significant trees are proposed to be removed to construct the plan line improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Approve the proposed plan line for Alice Street between Seventeenth Avenue and Corcoran Avenue.
2. Direct Public Works staff to include the plan line for Alice Street in the Master Plan Line file.

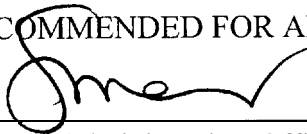
Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH
Director of Public Works

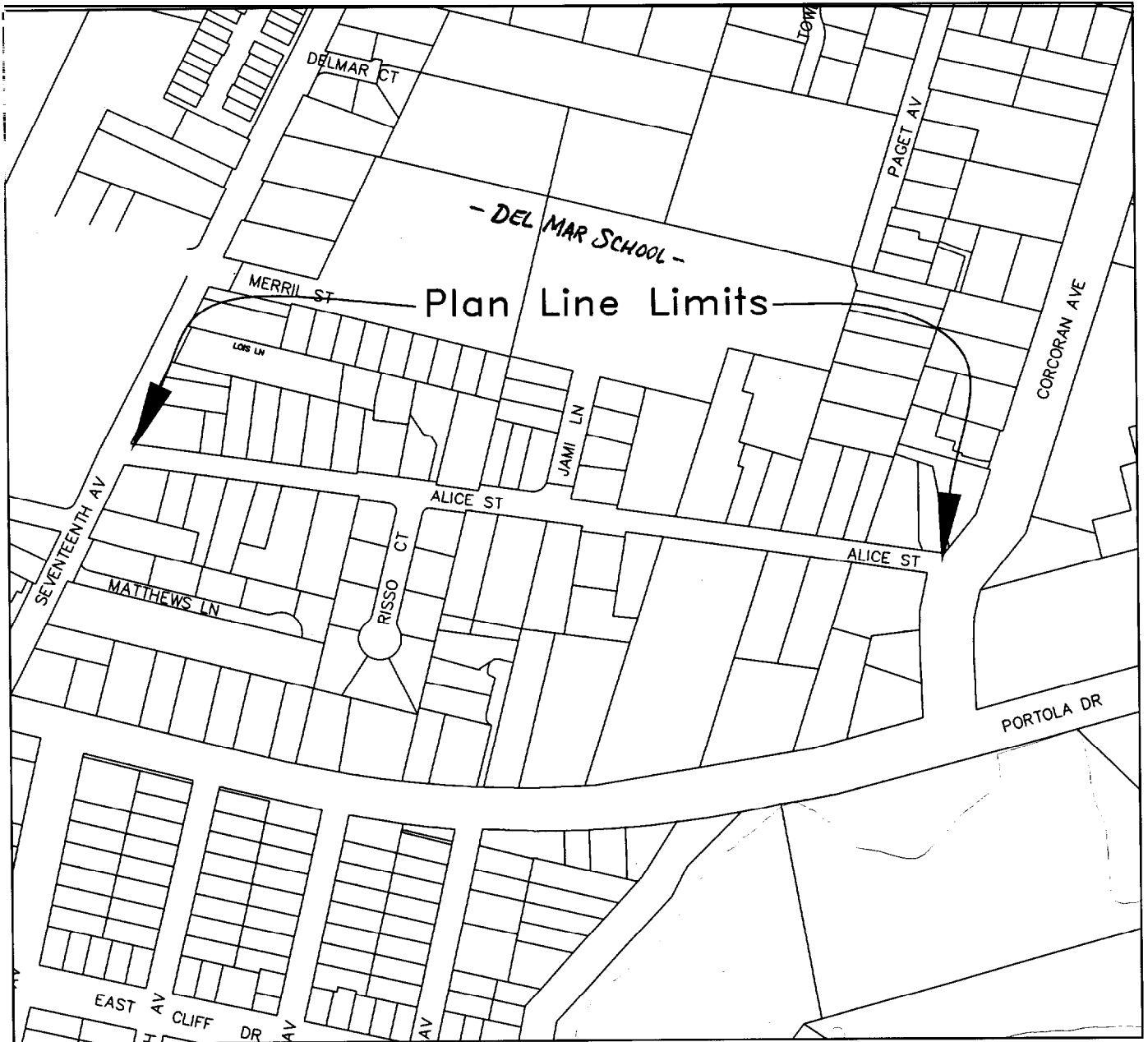
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Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

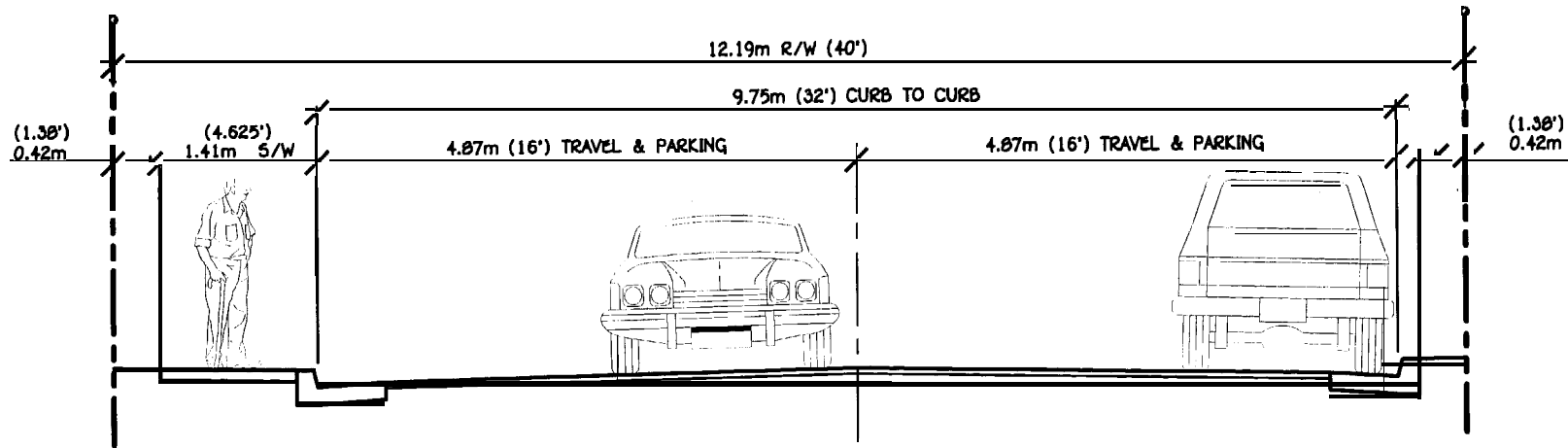


County Administrative Officer

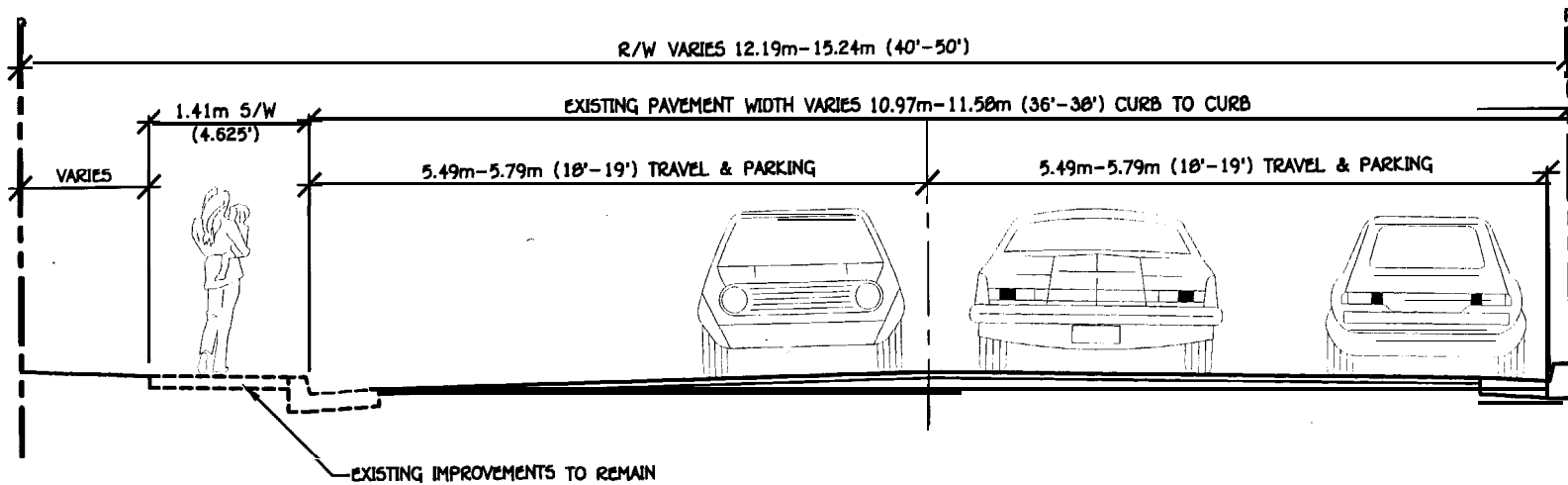
copy to: Public Works Department
 Redevelopment Department
 Planning Department



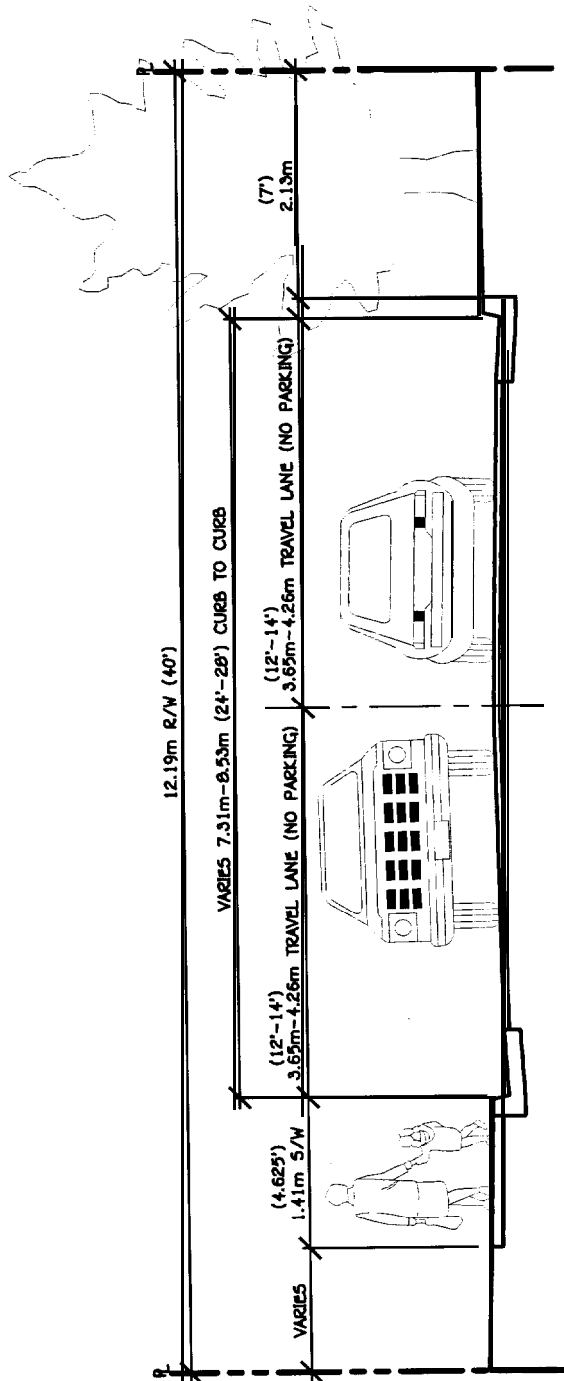
ALICE STREET
Seventeenth Avenue to Corcoran Avenue



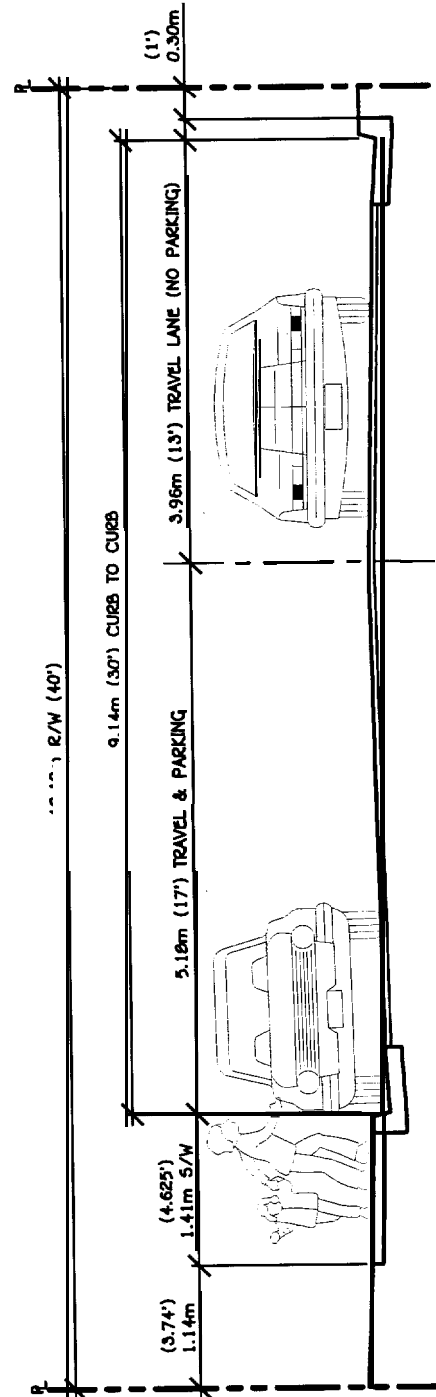
**ALICE STREET
PROPOSED SECTION 1**
SEVENTEENTH AVE. TO 1825 ALICE ST.



**ALICE STREET
PROPOSED SECTION 2**
1825 ALICE ST. TO 2045 ALICE ST.



**ALICE STREET
PROPOSED SECTION 3**
2045 ALICE ST. TO 2125 ALICE ST.



**ALICE STREET
PROPOSED SECTION 4**
2125 ALICE ST. TO CORCORAN AVE.