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Exit Route E

The general consensus that Route E can never be built and should therefore be edited out of the city's general plan did not carry over to the entire Sebastopol City Council. But the necessary three-member majority of the panel concurred, and the long-discussed roadway will be formally deleted from the plan at the next council meeting, barring any last minute reversals.

As he has been in the past, Bill Roventini was a strong advocate of the deletion. Reminding his colleagues that the city would have to acquire 44 separate properties if it was to go ahead with the controversial by-pass near the west side of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the councilmember called the proposal "pretty messy," and said, "I would just as soon see it out."

Roventini also charged that the \$50,000 spent by the city to study the proposed route had

been "wasted."

"If we take it out, we'll be saving future councils from making the same mistake," he argued.

Mayor Tom Miller lobbied for keeping the roadway on the city's planning maps to keep developers at bay through the proposed Route E corridor, a position shared by Richard Johnson, who called it "a foregone conclusion" that new development would move into the area if the deletion was approved.

But Howard Reeser called the controversial by-pass "a glorified city street," and opined that any practical by-pass route would have to lie east of the Laguna, and be built with county, state or federal funds and not by Sebastopol. Gwen Anderson provided the third vote for deletion of Route E, but did not join in the discussion.