

SENATOR REPORTS

Cities Will Be Permitted to Build Pedestrian Malls

By SEN. RICHARD RICHARDS
Legislation enacted at the recent special session of the 1960 Legislature will permit cities to create pedestrian malls in downtown districts where traffic congestion has all but throttled easy access to those areas.

As a result of these experiments, many cities in California have been contemplating such projects, and the new legislation will make it possible for them to go beyond the planning stage and actually develop projects comparable to those in other states.

projects except for Los Angeles' Olivera St.
The act enables cities to establish pedestrian malls and prohibit, in whole or in part, auto traffic on such malls. It permits development of malls and improvements necessary and convenient to serve the public.

It establishes a procedure for assessing the costs against owners of land in the area. It also provides a method whereby owners of property damaged as a result of such restricted use of the street may file claims for damages with the legislative body of the city.

Owners of property are completely protected against arbitrary action by city councils. Notice must be given by publication, posting, and mailing. If

owners representing a majority of the frontage on the proposed pedestrian mall protest, the proceedings are terminated.

If assessments are to be levied to pay damage claims, a majority protest of owners in the assessment district will prevent any such levy. If the people of the community are against the proposal, the ordinance restricting the use of the street can be suspended by a referendum.

The bill was authored by Assemblyman Ernest R. Geddes of Claremont, and I handled it in the Senate. It was sponsored by the League of California cities and numerous individual communities throughout the state, including the cities of Burbank, Pomona and Santa Monica in our

own County.
More than 75 other cities expressed individual support of the bill and requested the Governor to include the item in his call for the special session.

The legislation is purely permissive, and the decision as to any specific project rests entirely with the people of the community.

Flamenco Guitarist to Play This Month

Sabicas, Spanish flamenco guitarist, will offer two Los Angeles concerts May 20 and 28 as part of a West Coast tour.

Sabicas will perform at the Wilshire Ebell Theater May 20 and at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium May 28.

Seth Alpert Celebrates Bar Mitzvah

Seth Alpert, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myer Alpert, 1333 Cordary Ave., was called to the pulpit of Temple Menorah, 112 N. Catalina Ave., Redondo Beach, last Saturday to perform the traditional rite of Bar Mitzvah.

During the services, Alpert read from the Torah and delivered a sermon to the congregation. The blessing, "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee," pronounced by the celebrant, concluded the ritual.

Following the services a reception in honor of their son was given by the Alperets.

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