

## **Caltran working on safety improvements at trio of intersections**

**By Nick Baptista/ The Valley Springs News/ December 14, 2012**

Three of the Valley Springs area's most dangerous intersections are due for safety upgrades within the next few years.

Caltrans Project Manager Arvinder S. Bajwa on Thursday told the Rotary Club of West Calaveras that work is under way to enhance safety on State Route 26 intersections at Vista Del Lago Drive, St. Andrews Road and Country View Drive.

Caltrans crews lately have been busy along the nearly mile long section of State Route 26 with surveys.

Left turn lanes and wider shoulders are projected for the SR-26 intersections of St. Andrews Road and Country View Drive, Bajwa said. The safety work could be done in 2015.

The safety work at the Vista Del Lago intersection includes signalization, he added. That proposed project is likely to be scheduled for 2016.

The safety projects cannot begin soon enough for Dave Zamora, owner of Zamora's Auto Body and Glass Shop at the intersection of SR-26 and Country View Drive.

He witnesses nearly half-dozen accidents a year in front of his business. His parents and employees have been in a rear-end collisions at the intersection and he has had some narrow escapes himself.

"I think this is great," he said. "During many of our business hours, especially at noon or around 5 p.m., many of our customers can't get out of this intersection."

All too often, he said motorists are traveling 60 mph and there is an obstructed view due to the hillside off the west shoulder of the roadway.

"I'd like to see what they're going to do with that (the hillside)," he said.