

Road-improvement plans in the works for Capitola

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The city of Capitola is planning to extend some "village charm" up Capitola Road.

A proposal that would pave the way for an estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 in street improvements between 45th Avenue and Wharf Road will be considered Thursday night by the Capitola City Council.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 420 Capitola Ave.

City Manager Steve Burrell said the idea behind the Capitola Road "streetscape" project is to create a transition between the intensive commercial development of 41st Avenue and the quaint merchant/residential character of Capitola Village.

The project would include burying utilities, reducing Cap-

itola Road from four lanes to two, providing left-turn lanes at 45th and 49th avenues, creating two bus-stop turnouts, and street lighting and landscaping.

Project engineers of the local Robert L. DeWitt and Associates Inc. have already met with area residents and Ted Burke of the Shadowbrook Restaurant.

Issues addressed include traffic noise, parking, and funding. The project would eliminate Capitola Road parking, but side-street parking wouldn't be changed. Landscaping is expected to alleviate traffic noise.

If the council approves the project, it would be written into the city's 1987-88 budget, Burrell said, surmising the city rather than property owners would pay for it, "because it's to the wider public benefit."

The engineers estimated a

cost of \$300,000 if a portion of the road is salvaged, and \$391,000 if the entire section of road is rebuilt.

Burrell said he favored salvaging part of the roadway. PG&E would pay for burying utilities, which would be the first step.

A draft plan was actually drawn up seven years ago, according to a staff report from city planners. Developers within the project's scope have been required to dedicate the 12 front feet of each parcel to the city.

In 1985, the zoning designation on the parcels was changed from "neighborhood commercial" to "residential commercial." The new designation emphasizes residential use.

Burrell said, "It's too soon to tell when the actual work would be done."