

Auto Row

proposal

*Auto Plaza
Capitol*

inches ahead

CAPITOLA — A proposed Auto Row development next to Highway 1 near 41st Avenue moved another step forward Thursday night in receiving a redevelopment plan amendment and a negative environmental declaration.

The amendment by the City Council, which was also sitting as the city's Redevelopment Agency, changed the zoning of the six-acre parcel between 41st Avenue and Wharf Road from residential to commercial.

Applicant DaPont Construction of Santa Cruz received a similar General Plan amendment two weeks ago. However, since the parcel sits within Capitola's redevelopment plan area, another amendment was needed.

The negative environmental declaration means that environmental concerns such as traffic, noise and drainage from the automobile lots could be mitigated.

Four Santa Cruz auto dealers representing 11 makes of cars hope to move to Capitola by fall. The dealers include Roy Baldwin Oldsmobile-AMC, Marina Pontiac-Cadillac-Buick, Santa Cruz Porsche-Audi-Isuzu and Santa Cruz British Subaru-Jaguar-Triumph.

According to Planning Director Steve Russell, the proposed project is now making its way through the city's Architectural and Site Review Committee process. The Planning Commission will then scrutinize development plans.