



Capitola Mall barricade still subject of discussion

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CAPITOLA — A barricade on 40th Avenue is on the line in a tug-of-war between Capitola and county officials.

The barricade, at the end of 40th Avenue near the Capitola Mall, effectively makes the street a cul-de-sac, blocking through-traffic from the mall. The Capitola City Council has proposed to move the barrier south of Deanes Road, which would open a portion of 40th Avenue to future residential traffic.

Residents on 40th, who live in the unincorporated portion of the county, are charging Capitola with breaking a promise to protect their neighborhood from traffic. Council members counter that their promise two years ago involved keeping 40th clear of commercial traffic from the mall and 41st Avenue. They maintain 40th residents must "take their fair share" of residential traffic.

Adding to the controversy is that

both Capitola and the county claim jurisdiction over the barrier.

First (Live Oak) District Supervisor Dan Forbus has joined the discussion. Two weeks ago he appeared before the Capitola Council and successfully obtained a continuance to Nov. 13 to give him time to meet with his constituents and attempt to come up with some middle ground.

Tuesday, he pulled his own item from the Board of Supervisor's agenda, asking for a continuance. That item asked the board to maintain the barricade in place. If Capitola were to remove the barricade, it gave the county authorization to install another barricade a few feet away within the county's jurisdiction.

Forbus' administrative aide Faye Isaaks said whether or not the item returns to the board for action depends on the outcome of negotiations between Forbus and residents with Capitola.