

Riverview auto mall could draw Scottsdale dealership

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Mesa's Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously Thursday to approve the proposed Riverview Auto Mall, expected to feature three new car dealerships that would replace others planning to leave the city.

The 32-acre mall at the southwest corner of Dobson Road and the Loop 202 Freeway is expected to include Scott Toyota, Riverview Nissan and a third dealership that has not been identified.

The auto mall is being developed by the Larry Miller Auto Group of Salt Lake City, Utah. Architect Trent Jones, of FFKR Architects, said Scott Toyota, currently in Scottsdale, is included in a partnership with Larry Miller Toyota. Scott Toyota is listed as one Riverview Auto Mall's dealers on Mesa planning documents. advertisement

But Bob Staup, general manager of Scott Toyota, said earlier this week, "We don't have any definitive plans right now. At this point, we don't want to comment on it."

The auto mall is critical to Mesa in replacing sales tax revenue lost next year, when Big Two Toyota/Scion, Brown and Brown Nissan and Honda Cars of Mesa all are planning to open new dealerships at the Chandler 202 Auto Park.

The planning board only makes recommendations to the Mesa City Council, which is expected to vote Jan. 22 on the auto mall proposal.