

Dixon to take second look at increases in impact fee

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DIXON - A proposal to raise impact fees from \$2.14 to \$61.56 per square foot for Interstate 80 development and from \$2.14 to \$18.236 per square foot for other development will get closer study.

"It's incredible what they're trying to do," said Bill Bernheim, part owner of the Dixon Professional Building on North Lincoln Street.

"It's a ludicrous number, and it's highway robbery," said Bernheim, who also is working with the proposed Flying J truck travel plaza along I-80.

A building expansion at the Ford Dealership probably wouldn't have happened if the fee increase had been implemented five years ago, owner Ron Dupratt said. "It would have been a tremendous discouragement," said Dupratt, who built a 6,000-square-foot addition and additional parking in 2004. "It would probably have been unfeasible."

Joan Streit, Dixon's finance and technology director, said the city is re-examining some of the assumptions upon which the increases were proposed, and the City Council is scheduled to meet this month to discuss the impact fee proposal further. The date for the special meeting has not been set.

The fees are the principal source of funding for most new facilities the city needs to meet the demands of future growth: parks and recreation, public safety, transportation and street and highway work.

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