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# Clay board approves impact fees

By **BETH REESE CRAVEY**,  
*The Times-Union*

A lawsuit-challenged impact fee is on again in Clay County and will add upward of \$4,000 to the cost of every new development as a way to pay for future road improvements.

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The County Commission approved the transportation impact fee this week. The money generated will help pay for an estimated \$450 million in road improvements the county said will be needed by 2020.

The decision came after the commission held two public hearings and received a recommendation from its advisory planning board - actions to which it agreed to after the Northeast Florida Builders Association filed suit over its earlier approval.

The lawsuit argued the county violated state law by initially approving the fee in January without a Planning Commission review. County officials disagreed, but they agreed to the public hearings and review.

Single-family residential fees will range from \$4,341 in the southwest part of Clay County to \$5,814 in the northeast. Fees vary widely for different non-residential projects, including industrial, warehouse and retail construction.

County officials and the builders are still working to resolve a state administrative hearing process on conflicts between the impact fee ordinance and the county's comprehensive land use plan and other transportation plans.

Those issues are expected to be resolved by fall and not impede the Jan. 1 start of collections, Chief Assistant County Attorney Fran Moss said.

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This story can be found on Jacksonville.com at [http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/072508/met\\_309309857.shtml](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/072508/met_309309857.shtml).

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