



Commissioners to consider transportation fees for new developments

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2010-12-15 16:52:18

El Paso County Commissioners today will consider a county-wide transportation impact fee for builders of new residential and commercial developments.

"We've had no consistent process of determining who pays for roads. The plan is to have a fair and equitable manner for making growth pay its own way," said Commissioner Wayne Williams, who has specialized in transportation issues during his term of nearly eight years on the board.

Under the proposed fees, developers would pay a certain fee per trip generated in the development. The fees would pay for such things as pavement, curbs, rights-of-way, earth work, construction management, intersections and traffic signals.

Developers who build more infrastructure than the traffic in that development would be reimbursed. Developers still would be responsible for making necessary improvements under existing building laws.

Commissioners also will look at forming a Public Improvement District to provide developers the opportunity to pay part of the new fee through a district and part in the building permit fee.

The concept is similar to how drainage projects are funded in the county. And the idea is far from new. County officials tried to develop a county-wide fee in December 1989, under a growth management fund.

This time around, disputes over who should pay for what between builders in Falcon and Fountain triggered the proposal, Williams said.

The county's public services department created the proposal after a year of meetings with members of the Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs and other industry representatives.

Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building at 27 E. Vermijo Ave.

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