

THE DURANGO HERALD

County taking road-fee input

by Jason Gonzales
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La Plata County officials have detailed their plan for implementing road-impact fees and will be accepting comments through the end of July.

"We are more than happy to take comments on the details (of the plan)," Jim Davis, director of Public Works, said at a workshop Tuesday night.

After the plan is finalized, Davis said he hopes it will head to the Planning Commission in August and then to the Board of County Commissioners in September for final approval.

The county has worked out agreements to collect fees for developments - such as Durango Mountain Resort and Three Springs - but currently does not have any countywide road fees, Davis said.

The plan proposal will phase in fees during the next two years, by 2011, to match the city of Durango's road-impact fees. Durango's cost per dwelling in 2011 will range from \$3,954 to \$5,110 for a single family home depending on the square footage.

County Manager Shawn Nau said the goal of the plan is not to deter people from building in the county, but to stay in line with existing road fees to keep growth even throughout the county.

The plan drawn up by Duncan Associates, which specializes in road-impact fees, is based on past studies of county roads. The plan proposes to use the money received from the fees to look primarily at reconstructing two-lane roads to accommodate growth and fix existing problems.

City Planning Commissioner Joe Lewandowski, who was in attendance, said he is happy the county finally is looking toward a long-term plan for the safety and health of La Plata residents.

"(The county) needed to start taking a longer-term view about how development occurs in the county," he said. "The fees are for a greater good and will help the county."

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