

# Impact Fee for New Businesses and Homes

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How much is less traffic really worth to drivers in Dorchester County? Monday County Council may decide that when they vote on an impact fee for new businesses and homes to help pay for new roads.

A transportation impact fee buys new roads. If the county passes the fee, the county's future business and home builders will pay.

Brent Case is president of Coldwell Banker Commercial and he says he knows this fee would cost him.

"If I'm going to relocate my business ill just go to Charleston County down the street and not have to deal with it. They'll just move the business to an area they don't have that additional cost," Case said.

County Councilman Jamie Feltner says Case is off base.

"Retail, grocery stores they are going to go where the people are," Feltner said.

Feltner points to a number from a Clemson study that shows Dorchester County's population grew 23 percent in only six years and will only keep growing which could mean disaster if they can't pay for new roads.

"They can expect more of the same. Overcrowded roads and schools and will continue until the point they both fail," Feltner said.

The controversial issue popping up around town, even in signs, reading "Keep Dorchester County Open for Business," which could be a sure sign Monday's council meeting will be anything but a smooth ride.

The fee amounts would depend on the type and size of the building and ranges from about 400 dollars to 13,000 dollars.

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