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Tuesday, July 13, 2010 |

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## OUR VIEW: Impact fees make sense for managing development

Star-Exponent staff editorial

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» *Transportation impact fees could aid localities, as long as they don't hurt citizens/small business owners.*

As the Town-County Interaction Committee unofficially put its support behind transportation impact fees a few months ago, it got us thinking whether the move was a good idea.

On the positive side, it makes sense to require developers to partially fund road projects. The proposed cost is \$563 per house, so it's enough to make an impact but not too much to scare away anyone.

Imagine how much extra money the county would have generated if the state had enacted this law during the housing boom of 2003-07. Perhaps it could have saved a few road projects in the county.

A major concern is that charging an impact fee might detour developers and businesses looking to locate here. While valid, the bigger concern is that it might scare away small business owners looking to expand. So before anything is levied, there needs to be more discussion on what businesses will be charged.

Such discussion will take place tonight, on the town's end, at least, during the monthly council meeting. The county, after voting 4-3 not to enact a much larger fee in 2008, is now re-examining the matter and seems poised to act.

All in all, the proposed transportation impact fees could help save and create local road projects. The economic slump we've experienced has dried our coffers, but down the line this plan will help address important infrastructure concerns associated with runaway growth and increased congestion.

We hope the county gives it serious consideration, but more discussion is needed.

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[Flag Comment](#) Posted by Richmond on July 13, 2010 at 8:35 am

Why yes, poolboy, it does. And as always, the tax is passed on to the consumer. Can you name anything - besides illegal drug dealing and prostitution - that isn't taxed? And even prostitution is taxed in Nevada.

[Flag Comment](#) Posted by Ibaopoolboy on July 13, 2010 at 7:22 am

Doesn't this amount to a tax on free enterprise?

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