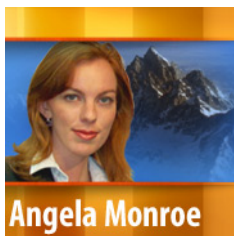




Columbia Falls discusses impact fees

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Reporting from KAJ in Kalispell

The city of Columbia Falls probably will not pass any transportation impact fees for several years.

City Manager Bill Shaw told council members on Monday night that plans haven't moved forward because the city doesn't have the same issues as Kalispell.

Most of the possible area for development road impact in Columbia Falls is along state highways, which the city doesn't maintain.

The impact fees can only be used on roads the city maintains that are affected by growth according to Shaw.

"So, I really don't see a time, at least not in the immediate future, say the next five years, where we would see that kind of impact."

Columbia Falls does have water and sewer impact fees.

(from February 2, 2009)

The Columbia Falls city manager says that transportation impact fees probably wouldn't apply to the city in the near future.

Columbia Falls followed in Kalispell's footsteps and made a transportation impact fee committee last year and Bill Shaw will tell the council Monday night that the plans haven't moved forward because the city doesn't have the same issues as Kalispell.

Most of the possible area for development road impact in Columbia Falls is along state highways, which the city doesn't maintain. Shaw says the impact fees can only be used on roads the city maintains that are affected by growth.

"I really don't see a time, at least not in the immediate future, say the next five years, where we would see that kind of impact. If these subdivisions that have been planned on both east and west of us were to start developing, potentially we could have an argument at that, it all depends on how they connect with us, at this time, there is no movement."

Columbia Falls does have water and sewer impact fees, but not for the fire or police departments.



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