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# New Bellingham law provides traffic fee discounts for developers

JARED PABEN / THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

BELLINGHAM - City law starting Jan. 1, 2011, will allow up to 50 percent discounts on transportation impact fees for developers who build in specific locations and take steps to reduce their project's traffic impacts.

Bellingham City Council on Monday, Dec. 6, voted 5-2 to approve an update to the city's transportation impact fee law. Council members Michael Lilliquist and Jack Weiss, who both said they wanted to see changes to the law, voted against the update.

Developers get discounts if they build in specified urban villages and near bus routes, and if they take steps to reduce traffic impacts, including buying bus passes for residents and employees.

Developers pay impact fees based on the evening rush hour vehicle trips their projects are expected to generate. The city uses the money for street improvements aimed at serving new development.

In a separate vote, the council also voted 7-0 to set the 2011 per-vehicle-trip fee at \$1,927. That's \$5 less than the current fee.

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