

The Record Herald

Antrim considers impact fees to pay for connector road

By Kate Andrews The Record Herald

GREENCASTLE - Taking the lead from neighboring Washington Township, Antrim Township is considering an impact fee to pay for the second phase of a planned connector road between Route 16 and U.S. 11.

Washington Township recently enacted a \$2,714 per home impact fee to help finance Washington Township Boulevard, a planned relief route around Waynesboro.

Officials there estimate the fee will bring in \$12.7 million.

Impact fees in the township are charged to builders within a seven-mile transportation service area and are used to fund transportation improvements brought on by development in that area.

However, since the law is complex and the fees are expensive to enact, few municipalities have adopted them.

Municipalities run into problems when they try to use the fees to fund improvements to existing roads, Antrim Township Manager Ben Thomas Jr. told the supervisors Tuesday.

Only half of the funding for improvements to state roads can come from impact fees. However, new roads can be funded completely with impact fees, he said.

Thomas said he has heard municipalities have better luck with fees if they use them to fund construction of new roads, such as Washington Township Boulevard or the connector road.

The first phase of the connector road, completed in 2001, runs from Route 16 to Leitersburg Pike. It cost \$2 million.

The township wants to extend the road so that it eventually connects Route 16 with U.S. 11, steering traffic away from Route 16 and easing congestion.

The supervisors decided to hear another presentation from engineer Chad Dixson of Traffic Planning

and Design of Pottstown, who last visited the township in February.

Traffic Planning and Design did the impact fee study for Washington Township for approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000.

The supervisors said they want to know if the impact fee study is worth its price tag.

It would be worthwhile if it brought in several million dollars, but not if it raised several hundred thousand, they noted.

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