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Ascension considers fees, tax hike

By **BRETT TROXLER**

2theadvocate.com Staff

Published: Jun 16, 2006

As reported on WBRZ News 2 Louisiana at 6 p.m

From a report by News 2's Tony Jones

Ascension Parish has seen tremendous growth since last year's storms, but if you live there or are thinking out moving there, the growth may cost you more. Ascension Parish leaders are meeting Thursday night to look at implementing impact fees and hiking sales taxes as a way to pay for new roads and pay for existing, congested streets.

The proposed impact fees would be a one time charge to new developments and would cover the cost of the increased burden they place on the parish's infrastructure.

Cynthia Stafford of the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors believes the fees will scare off potential home buyers.

"I definitely think that it's going slow things down and it's going to make it where houses that are still somewhat affordable to people are not affordable," she said.

The fees would vary based on the type of building being built. A new single family home between 2,000 and 3,000 feet would face an impact fee of nearly \$2,000. A daycare center would cost more than \$3,500 per 1,000 feet of space. A fast food restaurant would have to pay more than \$5,000.

The impact fees would be assessed to developers, but Stafford said those costs would be passed on to home buyers.

The council also wants to add a half penny to sales tax. The \$100 million generated from that, along with the sale of bonds, would be used to pay for the construction of new roads.

The fees only need the approval of of the parish council, while a sales tax hike would have to go before registered voters.



WBRZ photo by Dennis Flynn

Ascension Parish will consider adding fees to new construction during a council meeting Thursday night.

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VIDEO: Ascension Parish considers fees, sales tax hike

Ascension Parish has seen tremendous growth since last year's storms, but if you live there or are thinking out moving there, the growth may cost you more. Ascension Parish leaders are meeting Thursday night to look at implementing impact fees and hiking sales taxes as a way to pay for new roads and pay for existing, congested streets.



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