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B'ham City Council reduces Transportation Impact Fees

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BELLINGHAM, Wash. -- Developers will be shelling out less money next year to the City of Bellingham to help offset traffic congestion caused by new development.

The city council on Monday night approved a Transportation Impact Fee for next year that is \$5 less than the current fee.

Council members also agreed to reduce Transportation Impact Fees for developers who build in urban villages in Downtown, Fairhaven, Old Town, Samish Way, the Fountain District and Barkley Village.

"The mixed-use environment is contributing to less vehicle trips," said transportation planner Chris Comeau.



"People are much more likely to walk, ride a bike, get on a transit bus, because of the service that's available."

Comeau says discounts will also be given to projects near transit lines and to developers who provide bus passes to residents and employees.



"Trying to create yet one more tool in our toolbox – this isn't some magic bullet – but we're creating a whole myriad of tools to try to achieve this infill land use strategy that we have in our comprehensive plan," Comeau said.

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