

MERCURY-REGISTER

City's study to gauge growth impact on roads

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OROVILLE — The city is preparing a traffic impact fee study to determine which roadway segments and intersections would be impacted by new development and how much the city needs to charge to offset the impacts.

The City Council authorized spending \$62,339 for consultants to help with the fee update.

When applicants apply for permits to build a new house or a commercial building, the city collects the fee to offset the impacts on city roads, streets and intersections from traffic generated by the project.

The fees go into a fund to improve street and intersections the city has designated as most important.

The traffic circulation and transportation element of the 2030 General Plan includes a list of 30 intersection improvement projects and five roadway widening projects. Because the project improvement list supersedes the list in the old General Plan, Public Works Director Rick Walls said the fee schedule needs to be revised to include the projects.

"The fee study will reassess the needs and the amount of the fee we need to collect," Walls said on Wednesday.

A team that will include city staff, elected officials and community stakeholders will review the project data and comment.

Intersection traffic data will be collected to model existing intersection conditions. The projects now listed in the General Plan are not supported by intersection traffic counts, Walls said.

A 1.25 percent annual growth rate will be used for modeling future traffic

conditions.

A revised list of roadway segment and intersection improvement projects will be developed based on the results of modeling outcomes and traffic studies.

Cost estimates will be prepared for the new list of projects.

Once all the work is completed, Walls said they can develop a new traffic impact fee that could be more or less than the current fees.



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