

LOCAL NEWS

Home > Today's Paper > Local News

 Local News RSS Feed  Print Story  E-mail Story

Committee green lights higher development fees

BY JAMES GELUSO, Californian staff writer
jgeluso@bakersfield.com | Thursday, Sep 4 2008 4:27 PM

Last Updated: Friday, Sep 5 2008 7:21 AM

The long-delayed hike in development fees is finally moving on to the Bakersfield City Council.

OUR READERS RECOMMEND:

- CHP lieutenant pleads to drunken driving
- Teen shot at store, three schools put on lockdown
- Boys get 25 years in beating death of elderly man - Latest news
- Tears shed at funeral for two children found in shed
- Movie filming in east Bakersfield needs your lowriders

RELATED STORIES:

- ✂ City slashes proposed traffic fee increases
- ✂ Developers: Fees could hurt homebuyers, shoppers
- ✂ City's development fee hits roadblock

A council committee voted to recommend the fees after a contentious meeting that basically pitted Bakersfield City Manager Alan Tandy against development consultant Roger McIntosh, with Councilman Zack Scrivner serving as referee.

"We will have now had 14 total sessions with groups, taking questions," Tandy said near the end of the 75-minute meeting. "At what point in time is it just a stalling strategy?"

"It's never been our intention to hold it up," McIntosh shot back. "We want to understand it."

The development fee for a new home would jump to \$12,228 for one year, then rise to \$13,595. The fee is currently \$9,553.

The idea is to raise \$1.8 billion over the next 27 years to pay for road projects. Those projects run the gamut from traffic signals to the city and county's share of major highway projects.

And the fee increase represents a change in philosophy at the city, said Public Works Director Raul Rojas. In the past, development fees covered only about 10 percent of freeway costs.

"And that was a huge mistake," he said.

The city kept hoping for the state or federal governments to build freeways, and depending on excess capacity on major roads to get by. But those days are past, Rojas said.

McIntosh came with specific points, and said he had asked city staff about them before, but never got adequate answers. Tandy said the questions were answered, but McIntosh wasn't satisfied.

McIntosh's points ranged from questioning the inclusion of specific projects to asking for more specifics on what sources are used to pay for each project.

McIntosh and others already had talked the city into taking projects off the list, lowering the fee, and distributing the fee more to residential and less to commercial development.

But ultimately, if the fee isn't approved by the council, development will come to a halt in Bakersfield because opponents will be able to convince the courts that traffic impacts aren't being mitigated, Tandy said.

The council will take up the fee at its next meeting, Sept. 17.

MOST READ

- ⌘ Latest news - Story: CHP lieutenant pleads to drunken driving
- ⌘ Latest news - Story: Brotherly shove? Radio host Legan teams with sibling after partner fired
- ⌘ Funerals - Story: Funeral services for Sept. 13
- ⌘ Today's Paper : Local News - Story: Teen shot at store, three schools put on lockdown
- ⌘ Today's Paper : Local News - Story: Two boys get 25 years in beating death of elderly man, tw

MOST EMAILED

1. High bee prices sting almond growers
2. Taking inventory for some California pet-trust p
3. Pot gardens an 'ecological disaster'
4. Diabetes and me: A reporter's journey from fear to self-control
5. 16-screen cinemaplex breaks ground

Site map

News

Today's Paper
Local News
Latest News
Sports
Race to Victory
Staff Blogs
 Bakosphere
 Ask the Californian
 Breaking News
 City Beat
 School House Zach
Business
Eye Street
State News
World News

Weather
Obituaries
Funeral Notices

Other

Multimedia
Photo Galleries
Interactive Maps
Special Reports
RSS Feeds
E-mail Newsletters
SMS Alerts
Contact Newsroom

Entertainment

Movies
Dining
Calendar
Go & Do
Contests
New Releases
Blog: Cocktail Culture

Community

Your Words
Submit Your Article
Blogs
 Create Your Blog
 Staff Blogs
 All Blogs
Applause
Snap!

Inside Guide

Dining
Home & Garden
Personal Care
Find Businesses
List Your Business

Opinion

Editorials
Opinion Headlines
Columnists
Letters to the Editor
Blog: Sound Off

Marketplace

Classifieds
 Items under \$100
 Merchandise
 Pets & Animals
 Public Notices
Autos
Homes
 Featured Agents
 Real Estate Rentals
Jobs
 Jobs at The Californian
Shopping
Special Sections
Place Your Ad
 Print and Online
 Online Only

Advertise with Us

[Deal of the Day](#)
[Media Kit](#)
[Rate Cards](#)
[Contact Advertising](#)

Subscriber Services

[E-edition](#)
[Press Pass](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Contact Circulation](#)

Other Resources

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Terms of Use](#)

Sites

[Bakersfield.org](#)
[BakersfieldLife.com](#)
[Bakotopia](#)
[Kern Business](#)
[Kern Life](#)
[Mas](#)
[Northwest Voice](#)
[Raising Bakersfield](#)
[Southwest Voice](#)
[Tehachapi News](#)