

Committee Will Consider Road Charges

By <u>Sarah Terry</u> The Morning News

FAYETTEVILLE -- The Fayetteville Transportation Committee received the initial report for a proposed road impact fee Tuesday.

The committee will discuss adopting the fee at its next meeting before forwarding a recommendation to the Fayetteville City Council.

A preliminary report from Duncan Associates, an Austin, Texas, consulting firm, shows a road impact fee could generate between \$4.1 and \$4.5 million a year.

Money from the impact fee would help fund a \$143 million bond issue that the committee has discussed for almost a year.

The four phases of work include a series of street enhancements throughout Fayetteville.

Residents would vote on the bond issue. The committee has proposed funding the transportation improvements by combining a quarter percent sales tax with the existing three-quarter percent sales tax, which is currently collected for the wastewater treatment project and will likely expire in 2014.

The impact fee would help recoup construction costs and pay off the bond issue sooner, said Tim Conklin, planning and development manager.

The committee should not consider the fee calculations proposed by Duncan Associates without a bond issue in place, Conklin said.

The city collects an impact fee for water and sewer service, which has generated about \$3 million since 2003.

City leaders are currently debating additional impact fees for fire and police services.

Duncan Associates estimated that Fayetteville could generate \$846,000 in the first year through police and fire services. The study showed fire fees could net \$383,000 while police services could bring in \$463,000.

Impact fees for police and fire services could subsidize the costs of proposed projects, such as new fire and police stations and additional vehicles.