



County will study impact fee changes

By [Steve Lord](#)
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA – Kane County transportation officials will go almost back to square one to restructure the county's transportation impact fee ordinance.

Members of the Transportation Committee this week warily recommended a contract of no more than \$272,850 with Intersect LLC of Naperville to look at changes in the ordinance, which was controversial even before the County Board passed it.

Board members agreed to pass the contract on to the Executive Committee, but they were concerned about the cost.

"When we get into the \$250,000 and above range, I think maybe we need a little competition," said board member Gerry Jones, D-Aurora.

Carl Schoedel, Transportation Division director, said the study for the original ordinance cost \$400,000. The study for changing it is cheaper, but high because officials need to go almost back to the beginning.

"We're basically retracing every step," Schoedel said.

The changes have been promoted as a way of dealing with what some have called inequities in the ordinance.

Officials in the Tri-Cities of St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia, as well as in Big Rock and South Elgin, have said the ordinance unfairly makes developers pay a far higher amount than in places like Aurora and Elgin. The inequity could make a developer take a plan from the Tri-Cities and locate it somewhere else, officials there have said.

Some board members also criticized the fact that the ordinance did not exempt churches, or at least give churches a break of some kind. The first official protest filed against the ordinance came from a Campton Township church. Officials now are looking at a partial exemption for churches. Transportation staff members said the update will take at least a year. Board members remain committed to changing the ordinance, but also remain in support of the concept behind it.

"I'm all for updating this ordinance because I think the original was flawed," said board member John Hoscheit, R-St. Charles. "The whole concept was to make developers pay their fair share."

Transportation staff said they hope to have changes for the board to approve by October 2006.

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