

## Possible fee for developers would fund road upkeep

By Ben Moriarty, Staff Writer

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Murrysville officials are considering a new ordinance that could help raise approximately \$4.2 million for roadway improvements.

At last week's council meeting, officials voted 6-1 to advertise a traffic impact fee ordinance. Councilman Dennis Pavlik opposed.

Officials expect to vote on the traffic impact fee at the July 12 council meeting.

In addition to advertising the ordinance, council accepted a roadway analysis and transportation capital improvements plan, each with a 6-1 vote. Pavlik was the lone member who opposed the motions.

Pavlik disagreed with the road analysis, which included Old William Penn Highway's intersections at Tarr Hollow Road, Cline Hollow Road and School Road as capacity deficient from new development traffic.

Trans Associates studied Murrysville roads and determined that the municipality has approximately \$9 million in improvements that could be done to upgrade its roads.

Money from implementing a traffic impact fee ordinance would help cover about \$4.2 million worth of road improvements.

A per-trip fee is determined by the increase in vehicles on a roadway due to the completion of a new development or business.

Developers conduct traffic studies to determine the increase in trips on an adjacent road and each additional trip is subject to the traffic impact fee.

The fee is in a similar range with other municipal traffic impact fees in western Pennsylvania. Penn Township has a traffic impact fee of \$1,092.

The fees are intended to offset the wear and tear on roads due to increased traffic from developments.

If the municipality approves the traffic impact fee, it must use some of the money toward one of Trans Associates' listed projects within three years.

The transportation capital improvements plan calls for each of those intersections to be upgraded from four-way stop signs to traffic signals.

But Pavlik said the Tarr Hollow, Cline Hollow and School Road intersections are three of the best-functioning intersections in the municipality.

"You're making it worse with traffic lights," he said.

However, Mayor Joyce Somers said she recently drove through each of the intersections during busier times of the day and each was backed up.

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