

the rate Sarasota County is charging.

The new 27-percent rate went into effect Tuesday. Impact fees are a one-time charge to the homeowner

or commercial builder for construction to help pay for the impacts to the area.

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In September, Sarasota County raised its transportation impact fee rates. North Port was required through an interlocal agreement with the county to raise the rate back then but did not until Monday. When a developer or homeowner pulls permits, 25 percent of the road impact fee is paid to Sarasota County. The other 75 percent stays in North Port in a fund for transportation impacts on North Port.

The new rates range from \$495.69 for an adult living facility to \$1,787.89 for light industrial and warehousing. With North Port's estimated 4,000 new homes planned for this year, the new transportation impact fee rate for a single home is \$1,874.42 (a one-time fee) per house. The new rate for a supermarket is \$4,821, for manufacturing, \$1,376; for a fast-food restaurant, \$13,339; for a corporate headquarters building, \$1,859; for a shopping center, \$7,005; for a bank with a drive-through, \$9,386; for a hospital, \$5,635; for a day-care center, \$4,975; and \$429 for each elementary school student in a newly built elementary or middle school and \$753 for each student in a newly built high school. Most of the fees are charged by the square footage of the proposed new buildings or homes.

Money from these fees can be used for widening major roads in the city such as Price, Toledo Blade and Sumter boulevards.

Since 1980, North Port's population has increased 120 percent. Sarasota County commissioners have been asking city officials to raise impact fees to accommodate the city's growth and impacts on the county. During the upcoming budget hearings in August, city commissioners are likely to see impact fee increase proposals by several city districts including the fire rescue division.

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