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## Commissioners considering road rehabilitation fee

**NORTH PORT** -- Numerous complaints are called into the city's Road and Drainage District weekly regarding giant potholes and diminishing road conditions throughout the

city.

Some reasons the aging roads are in such poor condition is due to the large dump trucks hauling large loads. Many of the old roads were not designed to handle this type of weight.

With construction of more than 3,000 new homes in the city each year, the sight of dump trucks is a daily occurrence.

With the city's limited Road and Drainage District funds, making timely road repairs to all neighborhoods will take more than 60 years.

In order to combat this problem, the city is proposing a new road rehabilitation fee.

In a special meeting today, city commissioners will discuss the adoption of a proposed impact fee increase, as well as a new road-rehabilitation fee. Both fees will only be assessed to newly-constructed homes and businesses.

IMS Infrastructure Management Services, of Chandler, Ariz., recommends several road rehabilitation fee structures for single-family homes:

\* \$1.46 per square foot of building

\* \$3,660 per lot

\* \$52.40 per 100 square feet of lot

For commercial buildings or multifamily dwellings, IMS recommended \$2.08 per square foot of the building's footprint.

Several local organizations have already voiced both support and disapproval of the fees. The North Port Citizen's Alliance, headed by President Steve Liljegren, are in favor of the road refurbishment fee.

Many members live in North Port Estates and deal with poor road conditions

daily.


However, members of the North Port Contractor's Association say the fees are unfair. Contractor's Association Government Affairs Chairman Paul Morgan thinks there are other ways to improve North Port's deteriorating roadways. They will present these ideas tonight.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. tonight in the Performing Arts Center at North Port High School. The public is welcome to attend and public comment will be welcomed.

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