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## Committee Recommends Keeping Impact Fees

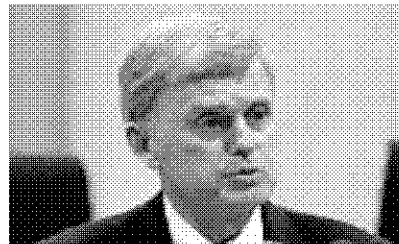
Lincoln

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[Committee Recommends Keeping Impact Fees](#)

Last year Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler appointed a committee to review the City's impact fee system. The committee was tasked with coming up with recommendations or alternatives to impact fees. On Wednesday, the committee released phase one of their report. [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

In the report, the committee recommended the City keep its current policy when it comes to impact fees. Under the policy, it allows for an annual pre-approved inflationary increase of impact fees. However, for the last two years, the Lincoln City Council has voted to override the increase, which kept impact fees frozen at the 2007 level.

In a statement, Mayor Beutler said he is encouraged by the committee's recommendations. □

"I reluctantly agreed not to veto the freeze for 2009 and noted that City needs to recoup the lost revenues when the economy rebounds, so I am pleased that the committee is also asking the City to consider this approach," said Beutler.

According to Committee Chair Nick Cusick, the money has to come from somewhere.

"I don't think there's a tree out here the grows infrastructure dollars on it, that I've seen any way. So ultimately the money has to come from somewhere and the question is how best to prioritize that, that's most fair to the citizens of Lincoln and that's most fair to the organization and businesses of Lincoln," said Cusick

The committee also said the City may need to ask voters to approve a bond issue to fund road projects in the future.

"As our infrastructure needs continue to grow and revenues continue to lag, a voter approved bond may be necessary in the future when the economy improves," said Beutler.

In addition to these recommendations, the committee also suggested the City increase the property tax levy to fund the City's needs. This will include contributions to street infrastructure. Another

recommendation is to continue to pursue the Urban Growth District concept in the State Legislature, which was re-introduced by Senator Amanda McGill. The committee also proposed the continued use of pre-approved increases in the wheel tax.

The committee is chaired by Nick Cusick, who serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Other members include Steve Stueck who is a member of the board of REALTORS Association of Lincoln; Fred Hoke, who was with the Lincoln Home Builders Association; and Jim Christo, a home builder and member of the Lincoln Independent Business Association.

In phase two of their review, the committee will study in-depth how other communities structure their impact fees. Recommendations from phase two are expected to be released in the summer.

Click on the link below to see the full report.

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