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Ferndale may revise transportation fees paid by builders

ZOE FRALEY

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FERNDALE - The city is considering an ordinance that would make transportation impact fees more predictable, but potentially more expensive, for builders.

Ferndale City Council will have a study session and public hearing on the fee revision Monday, March 21.

The proposed ordinance would create a fee of either \$2,685 or \$3,851 that a developer would pay for each car trip that the project would generate during peak evening rush hour.

Current transportation impact fees vary dramatically depending on a project's proposed use and location in the city, according to council documents. Staff has estimated that the existing cost-per-trip can range from \$350 to \$3,750.

The impact fee helps pay a developer's share for transportation projects that the city has planned for the next 24 years.

If the Interstate 5 overpass connecting Thornton Road to Portal Way is included in those projects, the fee would be \$3,851. Staff has said the overpass project requires more engineering study and more funding strategies before being included, so without it the fee would be \$2,685 per trip.

In Bellingham, the transportation impact fee is \$1,927 per evening rush hour trip that a project is expected to generate.

IF YOU GO

The study session on the transportation impact fee ordinance will begin at 5 p.m. Monday, March 21, in council chambers at the City Hall Annex, 2nd Avenue and Vista Drive.



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