



## Milpitas traffic impact fees could offset Calaveras widening

by Ian Bauer

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A planned \$55-million Calaveras Boulevard widening project on the books for the last few years needs to obtain more funding before it can advance. That money may come from commercial and residential development expected along the route.

City officials say the Calaveras Boulevard widening project's need is spurred due to the vehicle congestion experienced on the roadway by motorists most days of the week. The project would include the widening of Calaveras Boulevard between Milpitas Town Center and Abel Street from four to six lanes.

In addition, the work would include reconstruction of four bridges over North Main Street and the Union Pacific Railroad and Bay Area Rapid Transit alignment. The work would also see enhanced pedestrian sidewalks and bicycle provisions in both eastbound and westbound directions.

Jaime Rodriguez, the city's traffic engineer, said City of Milpitas will need to gain up to \$11 million in local matching funds to start the project.

City officials say that funding sources from the state and city are being tapped. To generate additional funding, the city is proposing a traffic impact fee, or TIF, be imposed on future residential, retail and office development in the affected road widening area along Calaveras Boulevard.

Under the TIF, residential developers would pay \$235 per future dwelling unit; retail developers would pay \$708 per thousand square feet; and those proposing office development would pay \$604 per thousand square feet.

As proposed, the development levels would affect the following: residential development with five or more dwelling units; retail development with 1,000 square feet or more of space; and office development with 1,000 square feet or more of space.

The new traffic impact fee would only impact future

development along Calaveras Boulevard, within the project area.

Milpitas City Council on Tuesday, June 16 is expected to review the proposed traffic impact fee ordinance. If approved, the ordinance would take effect 30 days after adoption.

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