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## Mayor Says Fee Freeze Will Delay Projects

Lincoln

Posted: 12:58 PM Nov 25, 2008

Last Updated: 12:58 PM Nov 25, 2008

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Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler won't veto the city council's freeze on impact fees, but he [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)  
says the freeze will reduce city infrastructure projects.

Impact fees are paid on construction projects in Lincoln, including new homes. The fees are scheduled to increase automatically every year, but last year were frozen at 2007 levels. Last week the city council voted to extend the freeze for another year.

Mayor Beutler said frozen fees means less money for the city to spend on public works projects. □

"We can no longer ignore road infrastructure funding in Lincoln and the role of impact fees in providing that infrastructure," Beutler said. "Infrastructure is the engine of economic development. To continue growing, we need more roads. We need more sewers. We need more stormwater pipes. We are behind on infrastructure investment and the freeze only contributes to the challenge."

Beutler said temporary impact fee relief is ok, considering the current economic climate. But he said the city will need to make up for it by collecting more in the future.

The Mayor said his Impact Fee Task Force is looking at ways to improve the impact fee system and he hopes it's recommendations will reduce the controversy surrounding impact fees.

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