# Impact Fee Primer

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## James B. Duncan, FAICP

- President of national consulting firm, Duncan Associates
- Drafted development codes for over 300 clients in 40 states
- Drafted codes for numerous Virginia cities and counties
- Drafted impact fee studies for over 100 clients in 30 states
- Created nation's 1st online resource: <u>www.impactfees.com</u>
- Managed nation's 1st multi-facility impact fee system
- Co-authored nation's 1st state impact fee enabling act
- Co-authored "Growth Management Principles and Practices"
- Past national president of American Planning Association

# **Evolution of Impact Fees**

#### • 1970s – Era of Frustration

- Rapid urbanization
- Anti-tax revolution

#### • 1980s – Era of Acceleration

- Declining State and Federal assistance
- "Reaganomics" (Public-Private Partnerships)

#### • 1990s – Era of Maturation

- "Smart growth"-oriented impact fees
- Increased state enabling legislation

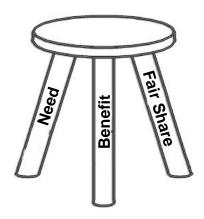
#### • 2000s – Era of Frustration II

- Skyrocketing infrastructure costs and fees
- Roller coaster real estate markets

## "The Perfect Impact Fee Act"

## • The "Rational Nexus" Test

- Need (plans and projections)
- Benefit (CIPs and service areas)
- Fair Share (proportionality)



# "The Perfect Impact Fee Act"

### Substantive issues

- Eligible facilities (Be permissive, not prohibitive)
- Levels of service (Omit "sins of the past")
- Crediting (No double charging)
- Earmarking (Spend wisely)



# "The Perfect Impact Fee Act"

## Procedural issues

- Stakeholder involvement
- Collections and refunds
- Timing: Phase-ins and updates
- Waivers and exemptions

