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## Portland City Council considers system development fee hike

[Daily Journal of Commerce \(Portland, OR\)](#), [May 18, 2007](#) by [Libby Tucker](#)

Portland City Council will soon consider increasing the amount of money the city charges developers of new projects.

The city is updating its 10-year plan for the transportation system development charge, a one-time fee collected from developers of new commercial and residential projects that's used to pay for road and transit projects which increase capacity.

With the cost of road construction increasing and a long list of potential projects to tackle, the city is looking for ways to raise more money for transportation.

But developers, too, are hit by high construction costs, and increased development fees could push some projects over the edge of affordability.

"I can understand the city raising the prices, but it's going to make housing less affordable," Randy Rapaport, the developer of the Belmont Lofts and the Clinton Condominiums in Southeast Portland, said. "Most of that charge will be transferred to the sale price."

Portland fees rank below average when compared to development charges in other Oregon cities, according to the Portland Office of Transportation.

"If we doubled our rate, we wouldn't be anywhere near the top" of the list, Kathryn Levine, project manager for the Office of Transportation, said. And "we'd still be very competitive with other development charges."

City Council will also consider phasing out waivers for projects located in designated transit-oriented development districts.