

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

## 1. WHAT IS A “MOBILITY FEE”?

A mobility fee is a one-time fee paid by developers of new development. This could also apply to expansions to existing buildings that would increase the amount of travel to the site. Examples of development would include the construction of a new home, new office building, or the expansion an existing shopping center. The fee is used to help fund new mobility infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, multipurpose trails, and transit capital improvements) that traffic to and from the new development will use. The mobility fee is just one source of funding used to pay for new mobility infrastructure. Mobility fees may only be used to pay for new capital improvements and cannot be used for maintenance and operations of existing facilities. The use of a mobility fee is provided for in State law.

## 2. WILL THE MOBILITY FEE BE USED TO FUND SUNRAIL OPERATIONS AND THE LYNX BUS SERVICE?

No, per the Florida statutes mobility fees cannot be used to pay for the maintenance and operation of transit, this includes SunRail and LYNX. Florida statutes do allow funds from a mobility fee program to be used for the purchase of new capital infrastructure related to transit, such as rolling stock, bus shelters, or equipment that increases services. However, the County's long-range transportation plan does not include any transit improvements, so funds from the County's mobility fee program will not be spent on transit.

## 3. I THOUGHT THE COUNTY HAS A ROAD IMPACT FEE NOW, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

The County does have a road impact fee that has been in effect since 1985. The proposed mobility fee will replace the road impact fee. Funds collected under the road impact fee program can only be used to construct new roads or improvements to existing roads. Funds that could be collected under a mobility fee system may be used for other types of new transportation modes to include roads, sidewalks, and multipurpose trails, and transit capital improvements.

## 4. WHY DO WE NEED A MOBILITY FEE?

In 2017, Seminole County created and adopted a long-range transportation (e.g. mobility) plan that looked at the transportation needs out to the year 2040 that plans for improvements to existing roads as well as construction of new roads, sidewalks, and multipurpose trails. Most of that plan is funded by the County penny sales tax revenues; however, additional funds are needed to meet the goals of the plan and a mobility fee can help fill this gap. The mobility fee is just one source of funds to help pay for these improvements. Other sources of funds to help pay for new infrastructure can include local, regional, and state funds, federal funds, and grants.

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

---

## **5. WHO PAYS THE MOBILITY FEE, IS IT A TAX ON THE RESIDENTS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY?**

The mobility fee is not a tax on the residents of Seminole County. Only developers or someone who applies for a building permit to construct a new building or expand an existing building or operation in a manner that will generate additional travel on the area roadways will pay the fee. Examples would include the construction of a new home, new office building, or the expansion an existing shopping center.

## **6. IS THIS A NEW FEE IN SEMINOLE COUNTY?**

No, it is not. Since 1985, Seminole County has been charging a road impact fee to new development to address expansion of the roadway network. The current road impact fees are based on calculations and data from 1990. The mobility fee is not in addition to the road impact fee, the mobility fee will replace the road impact fee. The new mobility fee is based on current methodologies, planning strategies, current data, and current costs for new construction.

## **7. ARE THESE NEW MOBILITY FEES HIGHER THAN FEES IN OTHER COUNTIES?**

The new mobility fees are “comparable to slightly less” than the same kind of fees in the surrounding urbanized counties including Orange, Osceola, and Volusia Counties, and the City of Orlando.

## **8. WHEN WILL THE NEW RATES BECOME EFFECTIVE?**

If the mobility fee program is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the new mobility fee rates will go into effect on January 1, 2021 and on that same date the current road impact fees will end.