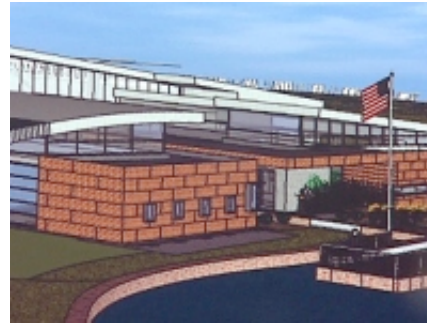
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FL Communities Seek a 180 on 360

Posted: 9:02 PM Jul 14, 2009
Last Updated: 9:02 PM Jul 14, 2009
Reporter: Whitney Ray



 [Anti-Development Forcing Suing Over New State Law](#)

Eight city and county governments are suing the state over a new law aimed at speeding up development. The legislation allows builders to develop land without paying for road construction near the property.

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City and county governments say the legislation unfairly requires them to pick up the road costs that developers don't want to pay.

Builders in Florida's urban areas no longer have to pay for road construction. A new law eliminates the road fees in an attempt to speed up development. Opponents say the legislation will lead to traffic problems, because builders will no longer have to plan for traffic.

Eight cities and counties are suing the state saying the law creates an unfunded mandate... because they'll eventually have to pay to handle to traffic.

The suit also claims amendments to the legislation aimed at making housing more affordable and keeping counties from requiring business to have security cameras violate the state's single subject rule. Adam Babington of the Florida Chamber of Commerce says the suit is standing in the way of development.

"It's unfortunate that you find local governments using taxpayer dollars to go and pursue this lawsuit when there are many provision in this bill designed to help Florida Businesses."

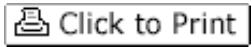
One of those provisions allows developers to extend their building permits for two years. The extension will give developers more time to finance their projects. David Hart of the Florida Home Builders Association says the law will create more construction jobs.

"We have lost 175-thousand construction jobs in Florida in the last two years and we saw this growth management bill as perhaps an opportunity to begin to attract new companies to Florida."

Some developers are waiting to see what happens with the lawsuit, before moving forward with their projects. Environmental groups are also opposing the law. They say the legislation will increase urban sprawl

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