Perot to pay cities' bill if highway land seized

BY SCOTT WILLIAMS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

WESTLAKE — Faced with uncooperative landowners along the route of a proposed new highway to his Alliance Airport complex, Ross Perot Jr. has struck deals with Westlake and Fort Worth to bankroll the cities' expenses if officials will use their authority to seize the needed property.

The airport's developer has agreed to pay not only all costs associated with the land seizures — which alone could top $600,000 — but also the expense of defending Westlake and Fort Worth against any potential lawsuits.

Mike Pyles, head of land acquisition for Fort Worth, said real estate developers frequently are willing to go to great lengths to clear obstacles for their projects, but they rarely indemnify a city against legal action.

"I wish they all were like that," he

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Ross Perot Jr.: Says idea to pay for a city's lawsuits is a first