

Parkway deal called critical



Palm Bay buy furthers new road

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The city council agreed to a \$1.25 million deal to acquire a "critical" piece for the long-planned <http://www.floridatoday.com/baybulletin> Palm Bay Parkway.

The deal with Lennar Homes includes roughly 90 acres of right-of-way and easements needed to extend the parkway from Malabar Road to the city's northern limits.

"This piece is significant in that it is critical to connecting Malabar Road to U.S. 192," Palm Bay City Manager Lee Feldman said.

Once built, the four-lane parkway will give the county a route linking Micco and Melbourne, with two new interchanges on Interstate 95.

Money for the deal will come from transportation impact fees, which developers pay to mitigate the effect their projects have on the community.

In addition to the right-of-way for the parkway itself, the deal includes rights-of-way to extend Emerson and Pace drives to the parkway, and storm water ponds and easements.

Lennar will give the city the engineering designs and permits it has been working on for the parkway and two other roads. Palm Bay also will be able to buy fill dirt for the parkway from Lennar at \$2 per cubic yard.

Palm Bay is expected to close on the deal by Jan. 31.

This deal comes less than a month after the Brevard County Commission approved a \$1.8 million contract with the Platt family for 47 acres of right-of-way.

The Platt land abuts the Lennar land to the north.

The road, known outside the city as St. Johns Heritage Parkway, will wrap around the southern and western part of Palm Bay and the western part of West Melbourne and Melbourne.

County leaders hope the parkway will relieve traffic on the interstate and Babcock Street as well as providing a hurricane evacuation route for southern Brevard.

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