

# BREVARD WATCHDOG

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## Parkway Project To Get More Dollars

The St. Johns Heritage Parkway could get an additional \$8.5 million after July for right of way acquisition.

Brevard County Transportation Planning Director Bob Kamm said the Florida Department of Transportation has reserved the money in its 2011-2016 Work Project budget. The budget requires legislative approval, and wouldn't become available until after July 1, Kamm said.

The money is what was left over after several other county Transportation Planning Organization projects were put on the project list, he said. It's being tagged for right-of-way acquisition, he said, but some of it could be used to help extend the Palm Bay leg of the parkway from Pace to Emerson, he said.



Palm Bay is due to send out bids next month for construction of a two-lane road west of Palm Bay Regional Park from Malabar Road to Pace Drive – the first step in the parkway's construction, City Manager Lee Feldman said.

In the project bid request package, the city is asking contractors to include an option to build an additional 1.5 miles from Pace to Emerson Drive.

"We're going to be acquiring those prices, and see what happens," Feldman said.

There are two possibilities, he said. The money could replace the road impact fee money the city was planning to use, which could then be used on another section of the parkway, or it could help extend the Malabar-to-Pace segment another mile-and-a-half to Emerson Drive.

"We will be working with the TPO to make sure the money is distributed in such a way that it benefits most people," Feldman said.

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