

Today's Weather

Front Royal, VA

55 °F

Mostly Cloudy
at 10:49 AM

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Week of June 02 - June 08, 2011

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Thursday, June 3, 2011

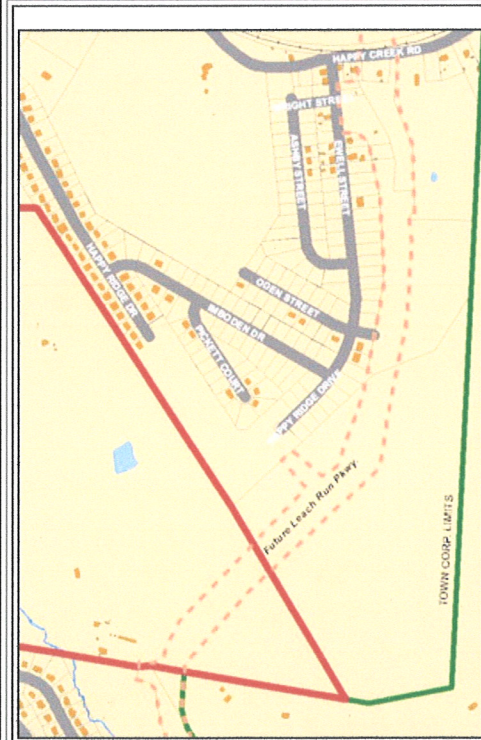
Long-planned road project moving ahead

By KEVIN SEABROOKE
The Warren Sentinel

FRONT ROYAL — A connector road that has been on the town's books since the 1980s is nearing a new phase of existence.

The 1.85-mile Leach Run Parkway would connect John Marshall Highway (Rt. 55) with Shenandoah Shores Road — crossing Happy Creek Road on an overpass — to alleviate some of Front Royal's inherent traffic problems.

The limited access road is "at the starting line for final design" interim Town Manager Steve Burke told a joint meeting of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, Front Royal Town Council and the board of the Economic Development Authority last week.



Burke said funding for the final design would kick in on July 1.

The town has been working with the developer Heptad LLC on the Swan Farm property, which would be crossed by the planned road.

The developer would grade and create a short segment of the road right-of-way to its development to alleviate traffic off Rt. 55 during construction.

Proffers to the town from Heptad of about \$7 million would go toward construction of the road.

Outgoing town planning Director Bruce Drummond told town and county officials that about five acres of right-of-way for the roadway had yet to be secured.

The EDA earlier this year bought 14.1 acres for \$410,000

Courtesy Front Royal Planning Dept.
The Leach Run Parkway would cross over Happy Creek Road connecting Rt. 55, just below this map, to Shenandoah Shores Road.

and 15 acres for \$1.1 million as part of the right-of-way acquisition efforts.

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Editorial

Mayor Tim Darr asked all the assembled officials to go back to their boards and try to "figure out a process to expedite the design through a joint effort by the county, the town and the EDA."

Burke said the final design is probably a one-year process and that there would be "significant permitting" issues with the road crossing the creek.

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