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### Parkway properties purchase approved

#### Long-planned road expected to relieve traffic congestion

By Kaitlin Mayhew -- [kmayhew@nvdaily.com](mailto:kmayhew@nvdaily.com)

FRONT ROYAL -- The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to approve the purchase of two properties needed to begin construction on the Leach Run Parkway at its meeting on Tuesday.

The properties, one located off of John Marshall Highway, and the other at 1433 Happy Creek Road, were the last two needed to move forward with the project. They will be purchased for a total price of \$760,000.

Authorization was required from both the Town of Front Royal and Warren County because the construction is a joint project. The Town Council approved the purchases at its Sept. 28 meeting.

"This is something that's going to be beneficial to the town and county," said Supervisor Tony F. Carter. "Hopefully we can move forward in a timely fashion."

Leach Run Parkway, which has been in the planning stages for the area for more than 30 years, is planned as a 110-foot-wide road with four lanes, a sidewalk and protected left-turn lanes.

The next stage for the process is submitting an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation to see if it will cover any of the construction costs, according to Town Manager Steve Burke. The application is due in November.

The road is expected to help with traffic congestion in the area, particularly once the plans for a large-scale development, planned for the land previously called Swan Farm, come to fruition.

"[Construction of Leach Run Parkway] is essential for the future of the community," Supervisor Richard H. Traczyk said.

The board also voted unanimously to authorize the refinancing of two BB&T bank bonds relating to school construction and the conversion of Luray Avenue Middle School. The bonds were originally from 2009.

According to Ted Cole, senior vice president at Davenport and

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Company LLC, the refinancing process will save the county \$2.9 million.

"We do have an out with VRA if rates go up and we're not generating an acceptable level of savings," Cole said during his presentation at Tuesday's meeting.

However, County Administrator Douglas P. Stanley said the overall expenditures for the year will look much the same despite the savings.

"The savings will be offset by the funding for Leach Run Parkway," he said.



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