



Council OKs Glenn McConnell extension

City also plans to complete Bees Ferry Circle at intersection with parkway

By David Slade
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Charleston has taken the next step toward extending the Glenn McConnell Parkway and completing the Bees Ferry Circle, a pair of West Ashley road projects that will pave the way for new developments.

Charleston City Council gave preliminary approval to a bond issue Tuesday that would raise \$1.7 million to pay for the land needed for the road work.

The city's plan is to complete the Bees Ferry Circle, where Bees Ferry Road intersects with the parkway, and then see the Glenn McConnell Parkway extended as far as the planned Long Savannah development and the adjoining extension of Village Green.

The two developments are being planned jointly and will cover more than 1,500 acres.

[Long Savannah development plans and information](#)

In addition to thousands of new homes, they would have a large commercial center and government facilities, such as schools and fire stations, and would be surrounded by nearly 1,800 acres of new city and county parks.

Development agreements already in place call for the Long Savannah developers to pay roughly \$8 million toward building the planned two-lane extension of the Glenn McConnell Parkway and contribute an additional \$1,000 toward traffic improvements for each home built.

The developers will reimburse the city for right-of-way acquisition for the extension of the parkway. The agreements call for the city to bear the cost of completing Bees Ferry Circle.

A design plan for the circle was completed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation in 2002.

The city has long planned for the circle to be a center of new commercial and residential development, but for now it's mostly known as the location of a Wal-Mart.

Mayor Joe Riley told City Council on Tuesday that the \$1.7 million the city plans to borrow represents only the amount of money needed to buy the right of way for the road projects.

"My understanding is, that is our appraisal of the value of land to be acquired," he said.

Riley said offers already have been submitted to land owners, but that the city would have to consider condemnation if those offers are not accepted.

"Once the certainty of the right of way is there, we can proceed to the next step," city Corporation Counsel Charlton deSaussure said Thursday.

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