

Buckeye to get first park and ride facility

by **Eric Graf** - Jan. 10, 2009 07:00 AM
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Buckeye is moving forward with a plan to give residents their first park and ride facility.

The Town Council on Thursday approved a proposal to buy seven acres at Jackrabbit Trail and Encanto Boulevard for about \$1.32 million.

The cost is roughly 20 percent less than the October asking price of \$1.67 million.

This was the council's third attempt to proceed with the project in three months. But this time, the vote was unanimous.

The plan had been stalled by concerns over the cost of the parcel and how soon the town would be reimbursed by Maricopa County.

The town expects to have the land and be reimbursed by February, according to Mayor Jackie Meck. From there, the project moves into the design phase.

"(The timeline) depends on all the pieces, but we want it as quick as we can get it," Meck said.

Meck worked with the Regional Public Transportation Authority to ensure that Buckeye would not have to wait until the next fiscal year, which begins in July, to be reimbursed for some of the land acquisition, he said.

"The day we write the check, we'll get reimbursed," Meck said.

Interim Community Development Director Suparna Dasgupta said land owners were helpful and worked with the town to come up with a price tag that seemed more reasonable to the council.

The land is on the eastern edge of the town, just off Interstate 10.

Meck said the strategy was to make the park-and-ride facility accessible to town residents who commute eastbound to Phoenix without requiring anyone to backtrack.