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## State grant to pay for Bunts work

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After several unsuccessful attempts in previous years, Lakewood has been approved for a state grant to fund construction on Bunts Road.

The city has made the final cut for an Ohio Department of Public Works grant this year thanks to changes in the city's application.

"The scope of the project and the cost was reduced," said Joseph Beno, director of public works. "The deteriorating condition of the street makes it more desperate, too."

The project will include replacement of waterlines between Detroit and Madison avenues, pavement planing and an asphalt overlay from Clifton to Lakewood Heights boulevards.

Although the \$1 million

grant has been approved, the money has not yet been released to the city.

"We've been approved for it," Beno said. "The city is working on the design but we haven't gotten the 100 percent official word yet."

The city's engineering department has begun work on designs and planning, but no specific dates have been set for the construction timeline.

"We're hoping it would begin early in the spring and be completed by winter of next year," Beno said.

The project is expected to be a \$2.5 million endeavor with a \$650,000 initial expense for the city. Other funds for the project will come from a \$500,000 interest-free loan from the Ohio Department of Public Works, \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grants and \$250,000

from the Cuyahoga County engineer.

When construction on the street begins, it will likely coincide with work to renovate Lakewood High School. Beno stated that related traffic issues are being considered while planning the work.

"It will be congested," Beno said. "Hopefully the water line work can be done during the summertime but it has been looked at."