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VA purchases Midlands site for nearly \$13 million Business First by John R. Karman III, Reporter
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The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today closed on a 34.5-acre Brownsboro Road site where it plans the new Robley Rex VA Medical Center facility.

The purchase price was \$12.905 million, according to a news release from the VA. The seller was Blue Equity LLC, a Louisville firm led by local businessman Jonathan Blue.

Blue's company paid less than \$5 million for the property at 4906 Brownsboro Road, where he initially announced plans for a mixed-use project that never materialized.

Master planning is under way for the \$883.2 million hospital facility, the release said, and the design phase should begin as early as October 2012.

Construction is expected to begin in 2014 with completion in 2018. The facility will replace the aging VA hospital on Zorn Avenue.

The release said a public town hall forum is planned for Aug. 15, when more information will be shared with the local community.

The new medical center will have 110 inpatient beds and clinics specializing in primary care, surgery and mental health treatment.

The new facility also will have a geriatric and extended care program, a home-based primary care program and a substance abuse residential rehabilitation treatment program.

The VA announced in late June that the Midlands site officially had been selected for the VA medical center.

The department had announced in November that the property was its "preferred site."

The land is located near the Watterson Expressway, not far from Holiday Manor shopping center.

John R. Karman III covers these beats: Economic development and government, commercial real estate, transportation, utilities, sports business, lottery, tourism/conventions, higher education, nonprofits, Jeffersontown, Downtown, Central Area.