

Proposed widening of SR 747 topic of August 1 public meeting

23 July 1996

As part of the planning process, a public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, August 1, regarding the proposed widening of State Route 747 through Union Township into Liberty Township. In addition to the widening effort, a proposed access management plan will also be discussed. The meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Heritage Elementary School, 5052 Hamilton-Mason Road, Hamilton.

During the meeting, issues relating to the environment along the corridor of the project will be discussed. Locations of known wetlands, archeological sites, historical locations and areas which may otherwise influence this project have all been identified and reviewed. These locations will be noted on various displays at the meeting with an invitation for residents to provide comment or identify sites not readily known.

Under initial planning, State Route 747 would be widened to four lanes, with turn lanes also constructed at major intersections. The widening effort, a project of the Butler County Transportation Improvement District (TID), involves SR 747 from seven-tenths of a mile south of the Smith Road intersection in Union Township to the proposed location of the Butler Regional Connector in Liberty Township. Consideration is also being given to widening SR 747 to its northern termination at Ohio Route 4.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has already begun similar planning efforts to widen SR 747 from South of Port Union Road to the beginning of the local widening effort. Upon the completion of both projects, the upgrade of SR 747 to a four-lane highway would greatly improve traffic flow and safety, according to Darrell Barger, TID executive director. Improvements would also be in place well in advance of the development of the Butler Regional Highway, where a primary interchange has been planned with SR 747.

In addition to immediate relief from current traffic back-ups, the highway would be better prepared to accommodate traffic gaining access to the Butler Regional Highway and future thoroughfare improvements stemming from the recently announced Union Centre Boulevard Interchange with I-75.

In addition to initial engineering plans of the widening proposal, those attending the public meeting can also review a proposed access management plan which would accompany improvements to SR 747. The access management plan would further enhance traffic flow and safety by identifying access locations to SR 747. In addition to current intersections, the access management plan locates four additional primary access points to the improved highway.

"The access management plan is greatly needed in rapidly growing, undeveloped areas of the county," said Barger, "and would encourage development such as that along Reed-Hartman Highway in Blue Ash. In the absence of this type of access plan, the area risks

higher density commercial development such as those along Colerain Avenue in the area of the Northgate Shopping Mall."

An open house format is being planned for the August 1 public meeting so that those attending need not be present at a specific time or sit through extended formal presentations. Instead, informational stations will be provided offering various elements of the plans. At each station, well informed representatives will be available to answer questions. The stations will be available throughout the meeting from 7 - 9 p.m.