

# JEDD may exclude Hamilton

## Joint Economic Development District agreement could go to Middletown

By Lisa A. Bernard  
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**HAMILTON** — An agreement that could bring more development dollars to the city of Hamilton may go instead to the city of Middletown.

Since the first of the year, Liberty Township officials have held discussions with cities of Mason and Hamilton to form a Joint

Economic Development District.

The agreement would have provided a 1.5-percent earnings tax in an area roughly defined by Hamilton-Mason Road to the south, between Princeton and Millikin roads to the north, Yankee Road to the west and Butler-Warren Road to the east.

Townships can use JEDD agreements to extend the

taxing authorities of cities into their territory in order to fund infrastructure projects. Typically, workers in the JEDD pay earnings taxes equivalent to the city rates.

The city takes a cut of the money for administrative purposes and may also use a portion for infrastructure improvements.

Hamilton officials have not heard back from Liberty Township about the proposal since the Hamilton City Council expressed in late June its unwillingness to

accept less than 17 percent of the tax benefits from the created district.

"We communicated city council's viewpoint towards the last draft agreement, as it had been significantly modified," said Hamilton City Manager Mike Samoviski. "I was told they may well undertake additional discussions with Mason as well as Middletown or other communities. We haven't received any further correspondence from them."

## JEDD

### Hamilton may be out of running

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"We just felt with what they offered, it was not conducive for us to do it. We'd love to work with Liberty Township, but at the rate we want to work with. We want to be good neighbors and there are a lot of other services down the road they will need."

During a Liberty Township trustee meeting earlier this month, trustees said that they were in interested in talking with Middletown for the project.

Hamilton had wanted to use revenue captured from the agreement to help pay to widen Hamilton-Mason Road. The project is still a priority for the city and preliminary conversations have been held with Fairfield Township about expanding a current

The most recent township proposal gave 2 percent to Hamilton and 10 percent to Mason. Under that proposal, Hamilton would have also received a 5 percent tax collection fee.

Hamilton City Councilman Ed Shelton, who is also a member of the council's finance advisory committee, said such a deal would not work for Hamilton.

"We wanted to do projects with that money too," he said.

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JEDD agreement to help fund the project, Samoviski said.

Improvements to Hamilton-Mason would provide better access to the Hamilton Enterprise Park. However, a planned development the area in which the JEDD could be extended has yet to be approved.

A proposal to put in a 200,000-square-foot Meijer store on 66 acres west of Bypass Ohio 4 between Hamilton-Mason Road and Ohio 129 was unanimously rejected by the Butler County Planning Commission earlier this month. Commission members recommended the developer find a better way to route traffic from Hamilton-Mason and Gilmore roads before moving forward with the plan.

"One of our hopes would be continuing dialogue with Fairfield Township if that development is in fact going to take place," Samoviski said.

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