

Journal News

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TID waiting on Miller for Ohio 63 plan

Trustees not sure company interested in extension of road

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HAMILTON — A handful of Butler County Transportation Improvement District trustees at their meeting Monday morning benoaned a perceived lack of interest from Miller Brewing Co. in the extension of Ohio 63. The on-again, off-again plans

to extend the state highway from Ohio 4 somewhere near Monroe are part of an inducement package offered to the brewery 27 years ago to secure its location in Trenton.

Now, local transportation officials say they're not even sure if Miller still wants the road.

"Miller's got to get involved in this," TID Trustee and Hamilton Councilman Ed Shelton said. "We haven't had a meeting with them in what, five months? Four months? We were supposed to have scheduled a meeting and shortly thereafter, they were supposed to

send letters of intent to our county engineer about how important that job was so we could establish that with (the Ohio Department of Transportation) and say this is our top project."

Between the county, the TID and Miller, Trustee Don Dixon said he wasn't sure who was responsible for the lack of communication. However, he said it's important for brewery officials to make their intentions clear.

Attempts Monday by the JournalNews to reach Miller officials for comment were unsuccessful.

The Ohio 63 extension plan

would take the highway west from Ohio 4, across the Great Miami River, north of the brewery and connect with U.S. 127 near Seven Mile. The project lost nearly all its momentum three years ago when ODOT withdrew nearly \$28 million in funding.

The cost to build the road to the brewery is expected to be about \$70 million, with the entire project costing about \$120 million.

In other business, TID Director John Fomner said an early estimate of costs to engineer the widening of Bypass Ohio 4 came in at \$2.7 million compared to

earlier estimates of \$2.4 million.

Although the state has tentatively committed to fund \$1.2 million of the cost, Fomner said the remainder will likely have to be split between Hamilton, Fairfield and Fairfield Township.

Fomner also clarified an earlier statement about \$2.9 million in state funding to improve an intersection on the highway. The money has been earmarked for Symmes Road, not Tylersville as he earlier reported.

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