

# Ohio 4 plan to eliminate left turns

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**A continuous flow intersection would free up the state route corridor, traffic analyst says.**

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Staff Writer

Improving the Ohio 4 and Bypass Ohio 4 intersection in Fairfield will free up the state route corridor, said the city's traffic analyst and surveyor.

Fairfield traffic analyst and surveyor John Belanger and Public Works Director Dave Bock on Tuesday night presented to council the plan: a "jug handle," or continuous flow intersection, at Ohio 4 and the bypass is proposed to eliminate lefthand turns at the intersection.

Those needing to turn left will use a cut-through that connects the bypass and state route a few hundred feet north of the intersection.

The continuous flow intersection plan has been approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Belanger said the Ohio 4/Bypass Ohio 4 intersection is projected to earn an "F" rating, the state's lowest rating, by 2030. It currently has an "E" rating.

said the intersection is projected to be at 183 percent of its capacity, have nearly constant gridlock and have long waiting times at lights, and no traffic light coordination will be effective.

The improvements will raise the intersection rating to a "B," projected to be a "D" by 2030.

Bock said the city will be meeting with ODOT and he anticipates the preliminary engineering plan to be approved for the city's overall portion of the Bypass Ohio 4 widening, which is planned to be four lanes to just south of Symmes Road.

"As soon as we can get that PE approved, we can move forward on that work," Bock said.

Construction could begin in late 2008 or early 2009; the city intends to pay for the widening, which would cost between \$7 million and \$8 million.

Hamilton and Fairfield Twp. may have to shoulder a larger engineering cost for their share of the widening because of limited state transportation project funding. ODOT funding is limited, and an anticipated \$1.3 million boost for engineering may be less. The estimated engineering for the remainder of the bypass is \$2.7 million. The widening project is anticipated to be \$32 million.

OKI has committed a \$2.3 million grant to improve the Hamilton-Mason Road/Bypass Ohio 4 intersection.

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