

TID to discuss funding

Monday's meeting to focus on Liberty Interchange

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JOURNALNEWS

HAMILTON — Funding for the Liberty Interchange design and construction will again be a topic of the Butler County Transportation Improvement District

at their meeting scheduled for Monday morning.

During the September meeting, some TID members criticized county and TID leaders for not providing enough information on how the project, last estimated at around \$40 million, would be funded.

The planned improvements include a new interchange at Hamilton-Mason Road and Interstate 75, widening Hamilton-Mason and extending Cox Road

to the Green Crest Golf Course.

John Fonner, director of the TID, is slated to give a project update at the meeting, including news of the Cox Road extension plans by the Butler County Engineer's Office and the scheduled submission of Hamilton-Mason Road improvement plans to the engineer's office Friday.

The TID staff is in discussions with Columbus-based engineering firm Burgess & Niple to provide

an independent review of the plans and the construction estimate, according to a written report by Fonner to be presented at the meeting.

Despite concerns of inadequate funding at the last meeting, Fonner said there is sufficient funding for the engineering of the interchange ramp additions and the Cox and Hamilton-Mason road improvements.

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Those costs are budgeted at \$1.1 million. To date, the TID has spent about \$400,000. Fonner said reimbursements for those costs are current.

How construction will be funded is not yet entirely certain. The county has approved a Tax Increment Financing district, which would divert increased tax dollars from any commercial development in the area to help refund project costs. Residential Incentive Districts (similar to a TIF, but concerning residential property) and a Joint Economic Development district, which could allow revenue from an earnings tax for workers in the area to be used to fund the project, have been proposed.

Liberty Township Administrator Dina Minneci is scheduled to update board members on the status of those two revenue plans Monday morning.

The TID board is slated to meet at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the government services building on High Street.

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