

Hamilton to put up \$450K for bypass

Council commits to paying city's share for widening despite Fairfield's delay.

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HAMILTON — The city of Hamilton has committed its share to get the Ohio 4 Bypass widening project started.

Wednesday night the Hamilton City Council voted unanimously to commit more than \$450,000 for engineering work for the project, with \$150,000 to be appropriated now.

The project is among Hamilton's

top priorities as it looks to develop its Enterprise Park on Hamilton-Mason Road and create quicker access into the city.

"This project is one of the most important projects that we have going on right now," said Councilman Ed Shelton, a board member of the Butler County Transportation Improvement District.

Shelton added that potential development in and around the bypass "doesn't stand a chance of happening if we don't do these road improvements."

In recent weeks the bypass project has been topic of debate among the governments expected

to participate in its inception.

TID officials had expected Hamilton, Fairfield and Fairfield Twp. to divide half the cost of the \$2.4 million design work needed for the road widening.

The remaining \$1.2 million is expected to be paid by the state.

However, Fairfield officials said late last month that they won't contribute to the project until they establish an income tax district with the township.

The move caught some Hamilton and TID officials by surprise.

At the TID meeting Monday morning, board members voted to go forward with the design of 76

percent of the project — the portion of the highway in Hamilton and the township from Symmes Road north.

On Tuesday TID Executive Director John Fenner said the township plans to commit by the end of the month. However, he added, there has been no word from Fairfield about its participation.