

# Journal News

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## Cox Road extension kicks off Liberty Interchange project

By Eric Schwartzberg  
Staff Writer

**LIBERTY TWP.** — The Liberty Interchange project will proceed in a different order than planned to capitalize on the area's growth potential.

An extension of Cox Road will kick off the \$50 million project this fall now that plans for the extension are completed and right of way issues are in place, said John Fonner, executive director for the Butler County Transportation Improvement District.

"(The extension) also opens up all that acreage for new development," Fonner said.

That development is necessary to buoy various funding options for the interchange project, he said.

While an initial traffic analysis showed Cox Road extended to Ohio 63, Fonner said that was only a "long-range goal." The current project, he said, would take the road just 3,000 feet north to the south-

ern edge of the Green Crest Golf Course.

"I think we need to emphasize that each time, so that there is not the expectation that people are going to be driving from Hamilton Mason (Road), up north to Route 63," said TID Chairman Jim Blount.

The extension originally was scheduled to follow the widening of Hamilton-Mason Road from Interstate 75 to Butler Warren Road. Construction on that project will now start next spring, Fonner said.

The approved change includes traffic signals and intersection improvements for the Cox Road/Hamilton Mason Road intersection.

Road widening for Hamilton Mason Road from I-75 to Cincinnati Dayton Road is scheduled for early 2008, Fonner said.

Ramps on and off of I-75 at Hamilton-Mason Road will be constructed by the Ohio Department of Transportation, as part of its I-75

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## Road

### Project set to begin this fall

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widening project, he said.

TID board members voted unanimously Monday morning

to approve additional engineering and design work related to the Liberty Interchange project, including improvements to the Cox Road/Hamilton Mason Road intersection.

The TID is on track to meet a deadline next month to show ODOT the project has sufficient funding and right of way

for the project, Fonner said.

County commissioners, the TID and Liberty Twp. trustees are expected to authorize a loan from the State Infrastructure Bank for the interchange by the week of Sept. 11, he said.

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