

## Township won't wait to widen road

**Fairfield Twp. trustees agree to begin Ohio 4 Bypass project about two years ahead of schedule.**

By Eric Schwartzberg  
Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD TWP. — A project expected to improve the safety of a dangerous intersection will happen earlier than planned and without the help of the City of Hamilton.

Fairfield Twp. trustees agreed Tuesday night to move ahead with plans to widen Hamilton-Mason Road and Ohio 4 Bypass intersection rather than wait for the Ohio 4 Bypass widening project planned by the Butler County Transportation Improvement District. The move means the intersection's improvements would happen about two years earlier than if the township had waited for it to be included.

"We can't afford to wait — not from a safety standpoint," said trustees President Joe McAbee. Including buying property and right-of-way, the project's estimated cost is \$4.5 million, Township Administrator Michael Rahall said.

Slated for 2008, the project calls for additional through lanes and turn lanes, a slight modification to the alignment and upgraded signals, said Chris Petrocy, spokesman for the Butler County Engineer's Office.

## Road

**Trustees authorize widening project**

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The City of Hamilton was expected to split the cost of the project with the township, but that is no longer the case, Rahall said.

The cost of the intersection's widening would be subtracted from the \$32 million total cost of the bypass widening project, Rahall said.

The township will pay for the project using revenues from special tax districts, McAbee said.

However, the township will not necessarily receive matching funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the improvements, as it did for those it made to the intersection of Princeton Road and Ohio 4 Bypass and other areas.

Fairfield Twp. trustees approved a resolution Tuesday night that authorized the engineer's office to move forward with the design and construction of the intersection's widening.

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