

Board takes steps to fix intersection

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middletown

The township's share of Philadelphia Park Casino money should fund at least most of the improvement.

A troublesome Middletown intersection should be fixed sometime next year, township supervisors Chairman Chuck Thompson said.

The board at a recent meeting approved the advertisement of bid specifications for an improvement to the tricky merge of northbound 213 with northbound East Lincoln Highway (Business Route 1).

Currently, motorists on Route 213 try to merge onto busy Business Route 1 from the left. It's particularly hard for motorists who need to get over to the far right in a short stretch of road for the Oxford Valley Mall exit off Business Route 1.

The project will be funded with a \$479,000 grant from the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority using money from the Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem. The plan is to straighten out Route 213 to create a more standard "T" intersection with Business Route 1 and also install a traffic light there.

Thompson hopes the improvement can be well under way this year and be finished sometime in 2010.

"That scissors merge is a dangerous place because there are so many people trying to cut across two lanes of traffic to get into the mall," he said. "But this project is ready to move forward and we should feel good that it's going to happen fairly soon."

The newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching township Manager Ray Stepnoski and traffic engineer Brian Keaveney for comment. Stepnoski has said he wasn't sure if the \$479,000 grant could fund the entire project. Middletown officials had hoped to get \$650,000 from the redevelopment authority grant but ended up with less.

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