

MIDDLETOWN

Casino grant will be used to improve intersection

The proposal is to create a standard "T" type intersection and install a traffic light where Route 213 merges with East Lincoln Highway.

**By CHRIS ENGLISH
STAFF WRITER**

The Middletown supervisors hope to improve what they consider one of the township's most dangerous intersections with a \$478,977 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks.

The board voted unanimously to accept the grant at Tuesday night's meeting. The money comes from the Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem.

This year's grant to Middletown will be used to improve the northbound "scissors" merge of Route 213 with northbound East Lincoln Highway [Business Route 1].

Currently, motorists on Route 213 must try to make their way onto busy Business Route 1 without the benefit of many breaks in traffic. The merge is especially difficult for motorists who merge on to Business Route 1 from 213 and then try to quickly get over to the far right for the turn into the Oxford Valley Mall.

The proposed improvement is to create a more standard "T" type intersection at the spot and also install a traffic light. The work must be "substantially completed" by the end of the year under the terms of the grant from the redevelopment authority.

When asked by Supervisor Kathy Heuer whether the \$478,977 would completely cover the cost of the improvement, township Manager Ray Stepnoski said he wasn't sure.

"We applied for \$650,000 on this grant and ended up with this amount," Stepnoski said. "It will probably take a bit more to do the improvement, though maybe not because the dropping price of oil also lowers the price of asphalt."

The improvement was pushed for particularly hard by former supervisor Diane Marseglia, now a Bucks County commissioner, during her time on the Middletown board.

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