

## Roadwork should be done by Feb. 1

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Middletown

Crews are realigning the tricky merge of northbound Route 213 with northbound East Lincoln Highway.

Motorists in the Oxford Valley Mall area should have one less traffic headache soon.

Crews from James D. Morrissey Inc. of Philadelphia are realigning the tricky merge of northbound Route 213 with northbound East Lincoln Highway (Business Route 1). Barring an unusual amount of rain, the work should be done by Feb. 1, said Brian Keaveney, the traffic engineer overseeing the project for Middletown.

Now, 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 to get to Oxford Valley Mall as well as Target and other stores in the strip center on Route 1 North.

Morrissey workers are eliminating the merge and installing a more standard T-type intersection of the two state roads, which will include a traffic light.

The \$433,000 contract awarded to Morrissey is being paid for with a \$479,000 grant obtained by Middletown from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks using money from the Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem.

"I've avoided that merge the last two or three years because it seemed so dangerous," said nearby resident Dennis Luff. "I'm glad they are doing something about it."

From 2004 through 2008, there were 29 accidents at the location, none fatal, said PennDOT spokesman Charles Metzger.

"This improvement should make things much safer in that area," said Keaveney.

Another nearby resident, Pat Liberty, said he wasn't so sure the improvement was needed.

"I'm not on that merge a lot, but I don't think a lot about it because I guess you just get used to it," he said. "Another traffic light will just mean more stop and go, stop and go."

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