

## Officials seek casino grant for sidewalk project

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middletown

The project would encourage exercise and keep a few more cars off Woodbourne Road, the supervisors said.

Middletown officials want to use the township's share of casino money this year to complete a sidewalk along Woodbourne Road from the SEPTA train station to the Oxford Valley Mall.

The township supervisors at Tuesday night's meeting approved a resolution asking the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks for a grant of \$204,350 for the project. The RDA administers the grants using money from the Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem. Decisions on this year's casino grants should be made by the RDA in a few weeks.

If they get the grant, Middletown officials would use it to build another 1,600 feet of sidewalk to go along with the 1,600 feet already there. The project should encourage more people to walk and allow those who want to walk from the mall to the train station to do it safely, said supervisor Kathy Heuer.

Resident Andy Warren objected to the township's intended use for the grant. He questioned whether there is enough room for the sidewalk to be constructed safely under some bridges along the stretch and also how many people would use it.

"There are RUSH buses there for people who want to get from the mall to the train station," said Warren. "It's a great idea to build sidewalks, but not at this location."

The supervisors said buses don't help the many people who want to walk the stretch, or part of it.

"I see many, many people walking on the street," Heuer said.

"I commend you in your effort in trying to get people off Woodbourne Road and walking safely from the mall to the train station," added township tax collector Tom Kearns, who lives just off Woodbourne Road near the mall. "I think it would be a great use of the money."

The sidewalk would be constructed on the side of Woodbourne Road opposite the mall because there is more room on that side, said township Manager Ray Stepnoski. The grant, if obtained, should be enough to entirely fund the project, he added.

Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or [cenglish@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:cenglish@phillyBurbs.com).

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