

## Sidewalk decision delayed another two weeks

08 Jun 2010 — Bucks County Courier Times

middletown

A \$205,000 casino grant would go toward construction but can't be used for \$22,500 needed for engineering the sidewalk.

The Middletown Supervisors have put off for another two weeks a decision on whether to move forward with completing a sidewalk along Woodbourne Road from the SEPTA train station to the Oxford Valley Mall.

By a 3-2 vote at Monday night's meeting, board members decided to table a decision until the June 21 meeting. That will give township Manager Ray Stepnoski time to see if there is money in some township fund to cover \$22,500 in engineering expenses on the project.

The township is getting a \$205,000 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks that will cover construction but not engineering. The authority hands out the grants using money from the Parx Casino in Bensalem.

Supervisors Tom Gallagher, Drew Kreiling and Patrick Mallon voted to table while Robert McMonagle and George Leonhauser voted no.

McMonagle said there has been enough delay and the project should move ahead. Leonhauser was concerned that even if money for engineering is found, the township might not get needed approvals from PennDOT and the CSX railroad company for the sidewalk and then the money spent for engineering would be wasted.

Woodbourne is a state road, and the sidewalk would have to cross over two railroad tracks owned by CSX.

Before the vote to table, several residents spoke both for and against the sidewalk.

Many feel it would be valuable for employees and visitors at the mall who take the train and could walk back and forth from the station. The proposal involves adding another 1,600 feet of sidewalk to 1,600 feet that is already there.

Others are concerned about encouraging more people to walk along busy Woodbourne Road, and how the sidewalk could be safely constructed on the stretch where the Route 1 Superhighway crosses over Woodbourne Road.

Township Engineer Patrick Duffy said the project is feasible but is dependent on the PennDOT and CSX approvals. If the supervisors eventually vote to move forward, the best-case scenario would be starting construction in about mid-September, Duffy said.

One of the normal requirements of the grant program is that the money be spent on projects that can be substantially completed by the end of the year.

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

*"Sidewalk decision delayed another two weeks" Bucks County Courier Times 08 Jun 2010: B3*