

Maple Ave. interchange project moves ahead

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Construction should start in September if federal funding comes through as expected.

A \$17.5 million project to replace a section of the Route 1 Superhighway where it crosses over Maple Avenue could start in September if federal funding comes through, PennDOT representatives said at Monday night's Middletown Supervisors meeting.

The project would also include improvements to all the exit and entrance ramps at the Route 1/Maple Avenue interchange, said PennDOT project managers Peter Berthold and Sibty Hasan.

Berthold said he expects the project to be funded through the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. If that funding comes through as expected, construction should start in September and take about two years, he said.

According to summary sheets distributed at Monday night's meeting, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions on Route 1 during most of the project and at all times during daylight hours. Lane restrictions will be limited to night-time hours, the sheet said.

Mike Miller, an engineer with a firm that is working with PennDOT on the project, said that at times, all traffic might have to be shifted over to either the northbound or southbound side of Route 1 when work is ongoing on the other side.

The Route 1/Maple Avenue project was initially part of a much larger ongoing PennDOT project for improving about 2 1/2 miles of Route 1 between Old Lincoln Highway and the Penndel interchange in Bensalem.

However, to expedite needed improvements to the Maple Avenue interchange, PennDOT officials made it a standalone project in late 2007.

"The purpose of this project is to improve the interchange and enhance safety and mobility," said Miller.

For more information, call 610-205-6854 or visit www.dot.state.pa.us.

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