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IMPROVEMENTS AT I-75 AND MILLIKIN ROAD TAKE IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD
Interchange type selection reflects commitment to safety and local feedback

Liberty Township, Oh. (Jan. 20, 2022) – Liberty Township, in partnership with the Butler County Transportation Improvement District (TID) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), today announced that the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) is the preferred solution for the new interchange being planned at I-75 and Millikin Road. The selection moves a new interchange at I-75 and Millikin Road one step closer to reality. A target date for construction has not been set and funding for construction has not yet been secured.

The interchange type decision follows a significant public outreach effort, including a virtual public open house, digital survey, and an open comment period, wherein a majority of respondents favored the DDI. The virtual open house provided a self-guided tour that walked visitors through the various improvement options under consideration and allowed the public to provide feedback along the way. Several options for improving travel along the I-75 corridor at Millikin Road and the supporting roadway network were considered as part of the interchange study.

Diverging Diamond Interchanges earn high marks for safety

Diverging Diamond Interchanges – like the one recently-built at I-75 and Union Centre Boulevard – are proven to dramatically improve safety because they eliminate numerous traffic conflict points. Also, because speeds are reduced within the DDI, if crashes do happen, they are often less severe.

Traffic through the interchange follows clearly-defined curbs, signs, pavement markings, and state-of-the-art signals to move briefly over to the left side of the road. This eliminates the need for drivers to identify when to safely make a left turn in oncoming traffic at ramp intersections. Drivers who continue through the interchange then cross back over to the right side of the road, leading to the “diverging diamond” name. In addition, because of the smaller footprint needed to construct the traffic pattern, they are often quicker and less expensive to build than many other interchange alternatives.

Interchange improvements support current and anticipated travel patterns

Dan Corey, Director of the Butler County TID, which managed the study on behalf of the Township, said new interchange projects must go through a planning and evaluation process that includes defining a Purpose and Need Statement. “The Purpose and Need Statement for the interchange at I-75 and Millikin Road reflects the need to make sure that our existing roads meet our travel needs today – and in the future,” said Corey.

In order to address the project’s Purpose and Need, four different interchange alternatives were considered at I-75 and Millikin Road: a Diamond Interchange, a Partial Cloverleaf Interchange, a Teardrop Interchange, and a Diverging Diamond Interchange.

“Our project team took a holistic approach in evaluating what type of infrastructure investment would best meet the needs of our community,” said Tom Farrell, President of the Liberty Township Board of Trustees. “In addition to conducting a thorough analysis of the various interchange types that would improve safety and travel throughout the area, our team closely reviewed the feedback submitted by the public,” he continued.

“What we learned is consistent with what we frequently hear from our residents – that supporting quality of life issues means addressing transportation challenges in a holistic manner by improving pedestrian and bike safety, respecting existing greenspace, and creating opportunities for new investment,” Farrell said. “We are in the process of working with our project partners to finalize the various pieces that will be required to build the new interchange and we are excited to take the next steps that will open up this area for future investment,” he added.

Key project milestones expected to be reached in 2022

Several significant steps are expected to be completed this year as the project team moves closer to a funding plan for construction. “An Interchange Justification Study (IJS) will be completed in early 2022,” Corey said. “The IJS will provide additional traffic analysis and will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for approval. Their approval of that analysis is the next milestone that is needed within ODOT’s Project Development Process and will kick-off the design phase of the project.”

Public feedback will continue to be solicited and reviewed throughout the course of the project and is an integral component of the Project Development Process. “Public feedback has helped guide our planning work,” said Farrell. “We hope the public will continue to be engaged as this important project moves forward.”

Project-related comments can be shared with Dan Corey at danc@bctid.org.

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