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**MOMENTUM CONTINUES TO BUILD FOR NEW INTERCHANGE AT I-75 & MILLIKIN;
PROJECT TEAM BEGINS PREPARING FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**
Recent approvals position interchange for ongoing progress and future investment

Liberty Township, OH. (June 13, 2022) – Liberty Township, in partnership with the Butler County Transportation Improvement District (TID), today announced that the planned interchange at I-75 and Millikin Road has received an important and required approval from state and federal transportation agencies, which will allow the project team to begin preparing for design and construction of the new interchange.

Today's milestone is the approval of the Interchange Justification Study (IJS) by The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Completion of an IJS is a federal requirement to show that adding a new interchange will not negatively affect the existing interstate system. This summer, the project team will submit additional environmental documentation, which will also be reviewed by ODOT and FHWA.

"The question is no longer *if* we will have a new interchange at I-75 and Millikin Road," said Tom Farrell, President of the Liberty Township Board of Trustees. "The approval of the IJS now turns our attention to *when*," he continued. "And we are, admittedly, a bit impatient when it comes to the pace of progress in our Township. While we are thrilled to cross this most recent requirement off the list, we are already pushing forward to the next step," said Farrell.

Earlier this year, the project team announced that the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) is the preferred solution for the new interchange. 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.

Dan Corey, Director of the Butler County TID, which managed the study on behalf of the Township, said that the IJS was completed as part of the Project Development Process and reiterated that it is the last step in determining if an interchange will occur.

Corey also acknowledged the strong foundation of support the project has received and noted several next steps for the project, saying, “This project has already benefitted from a tremendous amount of support from multiple project partners, including \$1 million from the state’s Transportation Review Advisory Committee (TRAC). Our team is currently working on identifying additional sources of funding so that we can begin more detailed design work and prepare for construction.”

A definitive timeline for construction has not been set but Farrell added that officials are optimistic that a detailed funding plan and other project elements will come into sharper focus now that ODOT and FHWA have approved the new interchange.

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