

Projects Require Careful Scrutiny to Assure City Priorities are Achieved

As the summer of 2010 continues, there is evidence of numerous street, traffic and construction projects beginning or in process throughout the City. Central Avenue (SR 37) resurfacing from the “Point” to the City’s western boundary line (Trotter’s Landing Apartments) is a state project slated to begin August 16, while work continues on the Peachblow Road / U.S. 23 intersection project, as well as the YMCA community Center project on Houk Road.

While these are all significant projects which will have a considerable impact on the City, there is, however, one project – the William/Channing/Cheshire Intersection project – which is particularly noteworthy in that it was NOT undertaken this year. The project would have added turning lanes, consolidated traffic signals and added a bus stop zone for Conger School along Channing Street.

So why didn’t it happen? The City received word in January that the project was awarded funding from the state and county. Under the terms of the grant, the City would have been obligated to contribute 43 percent of the project cost, or about \$170,000.

Since there was no money included in the 2010 budget for this project, due to the uncertainty of the grant approval, funding for the City’s portion would have had to come from an alternate transportation funding source. The only source available was our Local Street Resurfacing fund which, to pay for the grant project, would have suffered a 50-percent reduction, resulting in less street resurfacing this year.

After much discussion, the decision was made to postpone the William/Channing/Cheshire Intersection project to allow for the full schedule of Local Street Resurfacing projects to continue as planned. Those should begin in August.

Turning down a long-term improvement for short-term relief is not ideal but a sad reality in today’s economy. It is the latest example of the difficult decisions facing Ohio municipalities today. Receiving the award of grant funds is no guarantee that projects will proceed. Each project requires careful scrutiny to assure that City priorities are achieved.

The William/Cheshire/Channing project remains on hold, indefinitely, along with a host of other equally important intersection and roadway improvement projects until funding sources can be identified to advance such improvements.

As the economic downturn persists, we will continue to make difficult choices until current revenues increase or alternate revenue sources are identified. An informed citizenry is the best way of tackling these trying times. The City of Delaware is making every effort to inform

citizens of the difficult issues we face. In return, City staff welcomes your response and input on these matters as we continue to operate on limited funds.

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