



## \$3.4M to pay for start of Exit 3 work

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

Improvements to Exit 3 have been seen as a necessary step to commercial development in Antrim Township.

U.S. Rep Bill Shuster, R-Hollidaysburg, said Monday that \$3.4 million in federal money will pay for the first phase of the reconfiguration of the interchange.

In all, about 1,000 acres are ripe for development near Exit 3.

"In our opinion, this is arguably the most important development in Franklin County and one of the most important in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. When you look around, there are 1,000 acres surrounding this interchange that have the opportunity to be developed in a planned way," said L. Michael Ross, president of the Franklin County Area Development Corp. "Over the next 10 years, this is going to be an area that will be a major job center."

Shuster said development of the 500-acre Antrim Commons Business Park alone could create about 2,000 jobs.

The first phase of the reconfiguration calls for shifting the southbound I-81 exit ramp to the west. The new ramp would be built on what is

currently part of Mason Dixon Auto Auction's parking lot.

A PennDOT spokesperson said the start of construction is at least two to three years away.

Currently, traffic heading north on U.S. 11 cannot make a left turn onto I-81 southbound. Ross said the ultimate hope is to have a cloverleaf configuration at the interchange.

The long-term plan is a \$20 million expansion at the exit to accommodate commercial growth. Shuster said Norfolk Southern is looking to build an intermodal facility nearby.

"This is a growing part of Pennsylvania," Shuster said. "There's a huge need especially in Antrim Township and in Greencastle for infrastructure improvements. There's going to be tremendous need to improve the road system here, as well as the water and everything else that deals with infrastructure, economic development and jobs."

State Sen. Rich Alloway, R-Chambersburg, announced Monday that two H20 PA Act grants totaling more than \$1 million will pay for infrastructure improvements in the vicinity -- \$520,000 to the Greencastle Antrim Water Authority for water system improvements and consolidation, and \$533,262 for the borough of Greencastle for a sanitary sewer project.

Those grants are in addition to the \$1.25 million announced in April for the Antrim Township Municipal Authority to expand its water treatment capacity.

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"Improvements at Exit 3 are a crucial component of any plan for any continued economic development, not just for the Greencastle-Antrim area, but county-wide," said Bill Gour, executive director of the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce. "What's going to happen here will have a positive repercussion throughout the commonwealth."

Shuster said the \$3.4 million for the project had actually been earmarked in the Transportation Bill four years ago for improvements along I-81, but the money was recently designated for the first phase of Exit 3 work.

The available properties nearby include about 450 acres east of the interchange, another 500 acres to the west at Antrim Commons Business Park, and about 100 acres to the north at Century Commercial Park, located across from World Kitchen.

Ross said the properties lend themselves to distribution, manufacturing, commercial, and hospitality tenants.

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### In perspective

About 1,000 acres are available near Exit 3 of I-81. The Chambers-5 Business Park in the south end of Chambersburg, about one-third of the size, is home to about 1,800 jobs.

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