



Greencastle intersection of Pa. 16 and U.S. 11 to get \$2.5M upgrade

By ROSCOE BARNES III Staff writer

GREENCASTLE -- The \$2.5 million improvements to the intersection of Pa. 16 and U.S. 11 in Greencastle will include three additional right-turn lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, new signals and wider roads in some areas, according to Mark D. Greenholt, project manager for Gannett Fleming Inc.

In a Monday night presentation before Greencastle Borough Council, Greenholt said construction is expected to start in 2011, and may be completed in three to four months. Night time work might be required.

He said the finished project would be pedestrian-friendly and include sidewalks around the intersection that are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Once everything is done, it should take the average vehicle only 27 seconds to go through the intersection, he said. Without the right-turn lanes, it takes 36.4 seconds, he said.

"Adding these right-turn lanes is a definite benefit" to the intersection, Greenholt said.

Borough officials have said the changes would enhance safety and address the growing traffic problem through the intersection.

One right-turn lane currently exists on U.S. 11 in front of CVS, across from Sheetz.

Greenholt explained that his engineering firm had considered the use of two additional through lanes going north and south on U.S. 11. Because of all the changes to the road that would be required, including widening the road an additional eight to 12 feet, including the through lanes would not be practical or feasible at this time, he said.

Greenholt told council that U.S. 11 gets a lot of traffic and that people generally are concerned about the time delay they have when passing through the intersection.

During his presentation, Greenholt displayed a preliminary drawing of the proposed changes to the intersection. In addition to showing where the right-turn lanes will be placed, he graphically showed the size and locations of sidewalks, curbs, and areas of U.S. 11 that would have to be widened to accommodate the changes.

Near the end of his presentation, Councilman Paul Schemel asked if the project would be pedestrian-friendly.

Greenholt assured him that it would. He said people would be able to walk across the streets from all four corners.

Council President Charles Eckstine wanted to

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know how much of the engineering work was completed.

Greenholt, whose firm received the contract for the work about a year ago, said 30 percent was done and that progress was being made.

His presentation was only a status update on the proposed design of the intersection.

In September, state Rep. Todd Rock, R-Mont Alto, assured council that the intersection project was going to happen. He said Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was ready to move forward.

PennDOT had agreed to help the borough pay for the project through an 80/20 program. That meant the borough had to come up with 20 percent of the cost, and PennDOT would provide the 80 percent needed to pay for the construction.

Rock led efforts to raise \$250,000 for the borough. The amount was required by PennDOT for pre-engineering costs. Rock succeeded by getting Waste Management of Greencastle to donate \$200,000.

The borough and Antrim Township agreed to contribute \$20,000 each. Another municipality had initially agreed to contribute \$10,000. It later decided against making the contribution.

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Greencastle's Pa. 16/U.S. 11 Project

- Primary Feature: Three additional right-turn lanes
- Other features: sidewalks, curbs, new signals, pedestrian crosswalks
- Total cost: \$2.5 million
- Pre-engineering cost: \$250,000
- Construction: 2011 (may require night work)
- Completion time: Three to four months
- Design engineering firm: Gannett Fleming

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