



Engineering Division

Hamilton Rd Central Widening Project - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When is the project expected to start and when is it expected to be completed?

A: The project is expected to start June 22, 2015 and be completed by the end of October, 2017.

Q: How will this project change Hamilton Rd?

A: This joint project between the City of Gahanna and Franklin County will improve roadway capacity and reduce congestion by widening Hamilton Rd between Carpenter Rd and US-62. The widening will modify N Hamilton Rd from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction, with a center left turn lane. The project also includes constructing a roundabout at the Clark State intersection and at the Northeast School north driveway. In addition to the roadway widening, a 10' wide multi-use path will be constructed on the west side of Hamilton Rd and a new sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of Hamilton Rd to help improve pedestrian connectivity.

Q: Why are roundabouts being proposed?

A: Roundabouts provide a more sustainable and efficient alternative to signalized intersections. Data has shown that the efficiency of a roundabout may reduce motorist delays by as much as 74%. Roundabouts not only improve efficiency and reliability of the roadway, but safety as well. These types of intersections have shown to reduce all accidents by as much as 37%, injury accidents by as much as 75%, fatal crashes as much as 90%, and pedestrian collisions by as much as 40%.

Q: Is Northeast school closing, and why is a roundabout being proposed at Northeast School?

A: No, Northeast school is not closing, it is just relocating some of their 50-60 students to West Central School. The facility will continue to operate the Young Adult services program, several of the Head Start Programs, and implement an Adult Day Program for approximately 80-90 individuals. The use will actually increase, as the operation will extend from a 9 month facility to a 12 month facility which will continue to provide bussing. The operation is expected to remain very similar, with the exception that it will operate year round. The northern roundabout offers a traffic calming break in the middle of the project and also provides a more efficient access to the Northeast School and planned future development to the west. At the Northeast School, buses will exit the roundabout and follow the driveway which will loop back to orient their passenger doors to the school. Then, exiting the school, the buses will be able to enter the roundabout and proceed in any direction. The Creative Housing facility on the west side of Hamilton Road directly across from Northeast School will also be accessed through the roundabout thus removing a curb cut on Hamilton Road and providing better access for their bus traffic as well. Planned future development on the west side of Hamilton Road, south of the roundabout will also have primary access through the northern roundabout.

Q: Will northbound traffic on Hamilton Rd be allowed to turn left at Carpenter Rd?

A: No, northbound traffic cannot safely turn left into Carpenter Rd. However, northbound traffic can access Carpenter Rd by using the Clark State Rd roundabout as a U-turn. This will only add about ¼ mile (or less than 1 minute) to the total trip length.

Q: Will it be safe for pedestrians to cross the widened roadway?

A: Yes, the proposed design will include ADA compliant crosswalks at the Clark State Rd roundabout and the Northeast School roundabout. The new crosswalks will provide a safer way for pedestrians to walk across Hamilton Rd, and incorporate safety features such as hi-visibility striping, pedestrian refuge islands, and rectangular rapid flash beacons (RRFB's). All of these components help improve the safety of the crossing, but the RRFB's add an additional element to the safety of the crossing. The RRFB's have a large yellow strobe light that flashes when a pedestrian pushes the button to cross the road. The use of RRFB's has shown to help improve driver response by as much as 80% for yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Q: Will traffic noise increase because the roadway is wider?

A: There may be slight increases in overall noise levels, but no substantial increases are anticipated.

Q: Will there be planned roadway closures during construction?

A: We intend to maintain two-way traffic during construction with the exception of a short term closure and detour for the replacement of the bridge over Sycamore Run. The City of Gahanna and Franklin County will provide notification in advance of the short-term closure.

Q: Will access to local residences and businesses be maintained?

A: Yes, access will be maintained to all local residential and commercial property. Driveway closures may be needed to perform work in front of the drive, but the contractor will be required to provide at least 48 hour advance notification of the impact.

Q: Will access to side streets be maintained during construction?

A: Yes, all side streets shall have 2 lane bi-directional access to Hamilton Road, except during construction within the intersection, and on the side street, during which time traffic may be restricted to a single bi-directional lane that will be maintained via a flagger operation.

Q: Will my driveway be repaired after construction?

A: Yes, all driveways impacted by the project construction limits will be repaired as part of the final stages of project construction.

Q: What will I see different in my front yard after the project is complete?

A: Properties located on the west side of Hamilton Road will see new widened pavement, curb and gutter, a 5' tree lawn, and 10' multi-use path. Properties located on the east side of Hamilton Road will see the same items, but will have a 5' sidewalk in lieu of the 10' multi-use path.

Q: Where can I find regular project updates and project information?

A: Regular project updates, project information, project graphics, and project contact information can all be found on the City of Gahanna Website www.gahanna.gov, and the Franklin County Engineer's Website www.franklincountyengineer.org