

Friday, March 9, 2007



County to study Fields Ertel Road corridor

By Rob Dowdy | Community Press Staff Writer

SYMMES TWP. - The Hamilton County Engineer's Office is preparing to study the Fields Ertel Road corridor to determine if future troubles could arise.

Symmestownship trustees authorized Administrator Gerald Beckman to enter into an agreement with the county for the improvements study during their March 6 meeting.

The road goes through Hamilton County, Warren County, Deerfield Township, Sycamore Township and Symmes.

Trustee Ken Bryant said the study will cost the township \$9,500 for the seven-tenths of a mile the road is in the township and will likely explore possible future traffic, safety and drainage issues.

Tim Gilday, with the Hamilton County Engineer's Office, said the study will cost a total of \$275,000 and should begin within a couple months. He said the number of jurisdictions involved in the study has complicated matters and pushed the start date back several months, thus the end date, originally scheduled for around January 2008, is now between mid-2008 and late 2008.

Gilday said the study will be conducted without any preconceived notions about improvements, but instead to create a master plan for the corridor. "The only job is to provide a safe corridor for traffic," he said.

Beckman said the study will probably lead to a road widening and improvement project, similar to the work done at the intersection of Snider and Fields Ertel several years ago. He added the township could be asked by the county to contribute to the possible construction work. "I'm sure they'll ask us, (but) we haven't agreed to anything," Beckman said.