

Fields Ertel study should begin in '07

Traffic congestion clogs artery from Reed Hartman Highway to Interstate 71 area

By Feoshia Henderson | Enquirer Staff Writer

SYCAMORE TWP - Officials will soon study how to relieve congestion on a 2.64-mile section of Fields Ertel Road between Reed Hartman Highway and Wilkens Boulevard, just west of Interstate 71.

The Hamilton County Engineer's office is organizing the study that will examine everything from road widening, adding or removing stop lights and signs, adding turn lanes and putting in curbs, said Tim Gilday, a Hamilton County planning and design engineer. "I would expect it to run the gamut," he said. "Nothing has been eliminated at this point and nothing has been proposed."

That generally residential section of the Fields Ertel corridor is filled with houses, apartment buildings, and some small business and is a major connector to I-71 and I-275.

One of its busiest intersections, at Fields Ertel and Snider roads, sees 22,045 cars a day, 2005 figures from the Hamilton County Engineer's office show. During peak times, slow-moving traffic can back up for several hours. And many motorists instead take neighborhood side streets to bypass evening and early morning traffic.

The study will look at traffic and access needs 25 to 30 years in the future, Gilday said. "It's a pretty important road, so we want to get ahead of the game and start looking at what might be needed," he said.

The road goes through several jurisdictions, including Warren and Hamilton counties, Sharonville, and Sycamore and Symmes townships.

All will chip in on the study's estimated \$274,180 cost, depending on how much of the road runs through its area, Gilday said. A study consultant hasn't yet been hired, but Gilday expects the study to start early next year and end in February or March of 2008.