

Plans for McCarty Lane extension move ahead

Journal & Courier - Lafayette, Ind.

Date: Aug 26, 2010

Start Page: n/a

Section: NEWS

Text Word Count: 435

Document Text

The days of frustrating, headache-inducing traffic congestion on Indiana 26 East just east of Lafayette may soon be coming to an end.

In December, the Indiana Department of Transportation will let for bid a massive, \$12 million project to extend McCarty Lane to the state highway, said Sallie Fahey, executive director of the county's Area Plan Commission.

"This project has been in the long-range plan for at least 15 years," she said.

McCarty, which ends at County Road 550 East, eventually will curve northeast to its new intersection with Indiana 26, which will be just west of County Road 675 East.

The project includes turning County Road 675 East, which now intersects Indiana 26, into a cul-de-sac, and creating a short connector between that road and McCarty Lane. Once it's complete, the extension will stretch between 2.25 and 2.5 miles, Fahey said.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2011 and wrap up in early 2012.

Because McCarty begins at Main Street, near its intersection with U.S. 52, the extension will provide another way for those coming from the east to travel toward the city's heart, Fahey said.

To resident William Hancock, who lives a few blocks from the planned McCarty-Indiana 26 intersection, the road will create a welcome bypass of an area known for its heavy traffic.

"I just hope they put in the proper (turn) lanes," Hancock said.

The entire project is expected to cost nearly \$12.3 million, Fahey said. About \$7.3 million will come from federal funds. An additional \$1.9 million is expected from INDOT.

The rest of the money will come from a combination of tax increment finance district funds, local road and street money, and a fund that helps pay for drainage work -- which the project contains -- said Opal Kuhl, the county's highway director.

The planned extension could be a boon to motorists and nearby residents, said Steve Viars, senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church on Indiana 26.

"It makes sense to get as much of the pressure (as possible) off of Indiana 26 as it approaches town," he said.

Traci Robison, spokeswoman for Clarian Arnett Hospital on McCarty Lane near Veterans Memorial Parkway, said the extension should benefit patients, especially those coming from east of Lafayette.

"When we chose our location for the hospital, it was based on having access to the hospital from all around Lafayette. We want to be positioned as a regional hospital," she said.

"Lafayette is growing on the south and east ends, so it makes sense that road development would follow. Anything that provides easier access to patients would be a benefit."

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

Abstract (Document Summary)

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2011 and wrap up in early 2012. Because McCarty begins at Main Street, near its intersection with U.S. 52, the extension will provide another way for those coming from the east to travel toward the city's heart, Fahey said.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.