

East Owens Avenue extension, Latrobe intersection repairs possible thanks to state grants

Rep. Joseph A. Petrarca October 14, 2016 | 4:05 PM

HARRISBURG, Oct. 14 – Westmoreland County is receiving two state grants for transportation improvements, totaling \$310,000, according to state Rep. Joseph Petrarca, D-Westmoreland/Armstrong/Indiana.

Derry Borough has been awarded a \$210,000 grant to reconstruct East Owens Avenue from State Route 217 to the intersection with North Ligonier Street, while Latrobe received \$100,000 to enhance the safety and accessibility of the downtown intersection at Main and Ligonier streets.

“It’s always good to see the state return tax dollars to help with local projects and these latest grants are no exception,” said Petrarca, who worked directly with Transportation Department Secretary Leslie Richards regarding acquiring the money from the state’s Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Petrarca said the first grant will help the borough demolish the existing bridge on North Ligonier Street at the intersection with State Route 217. The bridge currently provides the only access to North Ligonier Street and East Owens Avenue, which provides access to numerous residences and a cemetery.

In lieu of replacing the structure, the borough will extend East Owens Avenue to connect SR 0217 to maintain access to the development. When the bridge is demolished, a concrete barrier will be installed to protect the drop-off area. East Owens Avenue will be reconstructed from the SR 0217 connection to the intersection with North Ligonier Street to provide two-way access.

The second grant, Petrarca said, will be used to make this major intersection at Main and Ligonier more visible to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The city will install eight new curb ramps, new asphalt at the intersection and a surface sign. Four decorative crosswalks will be added to brighten and widen them for pedestrians.

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