

Merits aside, Rich Hill project not a lock

Grants are needed to repave a mile stretch between Harmar and Indiana Township.

HARMAR

BY MICHAEL AUBELE
VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

A local council of governments official said that while there are obvious merits to the proposed Rich Hill Road paving project, there's no way to guarantee it would be a lock for two Allegheny County grants needed to make the work happen.

Harmar officials announced this week that they hoped to attract at least \$400,000 to pave the mile-long stretch of road the township owns between Route 910 and the Indiana Township line. The money would be roughly split between the Community

Development Block Grant and Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund programs.

"I would hate to put any kind of odds on it," said Tom Benecki, Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments executive director.

On the Web

Indiana Township Supervisor Darrin Krally has created a Web site dedicated to building support for the Rich Hill Road paving project: www.darrinjkrally.com.

"But I do think the project is consistent with the objectives of both grant programs."

A heavy push on the part of Indiana Township officials has been a key impetus in pursuing the project. Indiana Township officials began lobbying Harmar earlier this year to fix the road, claiming it posed a hazard.

For their part, Harmar officials said they were aware the road needed resurfacing but claimed the township didn't have the money for the job.

Officials from the townships met last month with local, county and state officials to determine how they could find the money. What resulted was the effort to seek the two county administered grants, which could be awarded next year.

Benecki said the COG will apply for the



ERIC FELACK, VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

Harmar and Indiana Township officials are hoping grants come through in order to pave the deteriorating Rich Hill Road.

grants on Harmar's behalf. Officials will meet again next month to discuss the application, notably how much money to pursue. Benecki said that by that time, officials hope to have better cost estimates from the engineers working on the project.

The CDBG money could cover the entire cost of the work, although Benecki said it would be unlikely to garner an award that large. Plans are to apply for about \$250,000, he said.

The CDBG money will be linked to job creation and retention. Benecki said that if the application shows that the several businesses along the road can expand their work force or at least protect the jobs they have because of the project, chances could be good in getting the grant.

That grant, however, is highly competitive. Benecki said there are hundreds of

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Mrs. Barbiaux

her life.

She was a 1948 graduate of New Kensington High School and attended Penn State University, New Kensington Campus.

Mrs. Barbiaux retired in 1994 as a teller and customer service representative at the former Integra Bank, Harmar, where she worked for seven years.

She was a member of Hillcrest Alliance Church and the

9:51AM
Agnes A. Lewis Crummie, and was a New Kensington and Lower Burrell resident most of

Delmonte Executive Offices 1st f, Pugno, and Caroline Tira.
Cemetery, Lower Burrell. To send an online condolence visit www.rosswalker.com.

Albert W. Cyphert TARENTUM

Albert W. Cyphert, 40, of Tarentum, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at his home following a lengthy illness.

He was born Sept. 10, 1968, in Pittsburgh, son of Linda (Gary) (Carson) Schuller, of Pawn Township, and the late Albert W. Cyphert.

He lived most of life in the Oakmont area, but lived the past three years in Tarentum.

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RICH HILL • FROM A3

applications annually for the money.

Asked what would happen to the prospect of attracting the grant without being able to promote job creation, Benecki said, "I think we would still submit the application but under job retention. I think it would still have more value."

An official with Redland Brick, one of the larger industries along Rich Hill Road, indicated the paving would make life more comfortable for employees but wouldn't result in jobs being added.

"The impact would be so small I don't think I'd even notice," said Wes Fravel, Redland plant manager.

Fravel said Redland's business is affected by what's happening in the housing and construction markets, and not by how well-paved Rich Hill Road is.

A manager at Pittsburgh Indoor Sports Arena said that while customers would be happy to have the road fixed, the project likely wouldn't mean a work force expansion.

Benecki said that a second grant is being sought should help in attracting the CDBG money, which comes to the county from the federal government.

"They would look at, 'Are you leveraging that federal investment with state or local money?'" he said. "The answer is, we hope to be bringing in state money to leverage it."

"These two grants have synergy."

The Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund program, Benecki said, is a grant and loan system launched this year to use state gambling money. The fact that it's relatively new should help Harmar attract the funding, he said, because the number of communities applying for it is relatively small.

Officials plan to apply for at least \$200,000, Benecki said.

"You couldn't ask (Harmar officials) to do much more," Benecki said. "They're looking at the two best sources of funding for a project like this."


He added that the "multi-municipal nature of the project" should assist in getting

the grants.
Darrin Krally, an Indiana Township supervisor who has lobbied hard for the repaving project, said he hopes to see the applications submitted by February. The county and PennDOT will repair a bridge along Rich Hill Road in the spring and Krally said it would be ideal to pave the road at the same time.

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Henrietta Adams, 82
Memorial Service At A Later Date
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In Loving Memory of
Chris Pelican
11-4-92 ~ 12-6-06



Chris,
It's been 2 long years that you've been gone. Behind you left a loving family and many, many friends who keep me going with visits and phone calls.
In life you were my baby and angel. You'll always be my angel.

Love, Mom, Family and Friends

In Loving Memory of
Edith Hill
Who Passed Away
10 Years Ago

God took her home,
It was His will
But in our hearts
we love her still,
Her memory is as dear today
As in the hour she passed away
We often sit and think of her
When we are all alone.
For memory is the only friend
That grief can call its own.

Sadly Missed and Loved
By Children, Grandchildren
& Great Grandchildren.

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