

# Indiana Township official wants Harmar to fix Rich Hill Road

By [Michael Aubele](#), VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH  
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## About the writer

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Rich Hill Road won't get paved until grant money becomes available to do the work, Harmar officials said Thursday.

Resurfacing the mile-long stretch from Route 910 to the Indiana Township line will cost at least \$500,000, which is money that Harmar doesn't have, township engineer Larry Seiler said.

Supervisors agreed last night to reapply for two grants from Allegheny County that should cover the cost of the project. Each grant is for \$250,000.

Supervisors indicated that the township was approved for at least one of the grants. However, the Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments, which awards the grants, ran out of money to distribute, supervisors said.

As a result, supervisors decided to submit the township's grant applications again. Applications are due Sept. 1 for the next funding cycle, they said.

Darrin Krally, an Indiana Township supervisor, told the Harmar board that it's inevitable a fatal accident will happen on the road because it's in poor condition.

"The whole road is a pothole," Krally said. "There's no doubt it's a hazard."

He added that there are frequent accidents and "near-misses" that happen because the road is crumbling.

When asked by Harmar Supervisor Michael Hillery how many reportable accidents have happened on the road in the past six months, Harmar police Capt. Rick Toney said, "None."

Toney indicated that accidents are common at Route 910 and Rich Hill Road but have nothing to do with the condition of the road.

Harmar officials said the township's road crew routinely surveys the road and fills potholes as often as possible.

Krally argued that's not going far enough.

He asked Harmar officials to post weight-limit signs, paint fresh lines and prevent unlicensed vehicles from using the road.

Krally said trucks from one of the industries along the road contribute to the road's poor condition because they weigh too much. He also said fork-lifts from the industry travel the road and add to the problem.

Harmar officials said they will paint fresh lines and patrol for unlicensed vehicles but said they didn't plan to post weight restrictions on the road because it could harm the businesses there.

Harmar officials also said that Indiana Township residents living in newer developments off the road contribute to the problem. Those residents are primarily the ones using the road, Harmar officials said.

Krally argued that the few businesses on the Harmar side create a lot of the traffic.

After asking the Harmar board to keep searching for money to do the work, Krally said he wouldn't oppose closing the road.

If the road doesn't get fixed, "somebody will get killed and somebody will get injured," because of how dangerous it is, Krally said.