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County engineer discusses Hobart Drive construction

Funding sources being explored for road that would extend from state Route 73 to U.S. 62

**By MEREDITH CREEK
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Highland County Engineer [Dean Otworth](#) and Michelle Throckmorton of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission met with the [Highland County Board of Commissioners](#) Wednesday to discuss funding sources for the Hobart Drive road construction project.

Otworth said the project is divided into three stages, all of which have been or are being designed. Phase one consists of connecting state Route 73 to just behind Homestead Avenue, while phase two would then connect state Route 73 to U.S. Highway 62.

The third phase would involve improvements to both highways and Careytown Road, as well as syncing traffic lights from Harry Sauner south to Hobart Drive.

Throckmorton advised Otworth and the commissioners that despite the uncertainty in Ohio's budget for fiscal year 2012, there are several sources of funding that could be looked into, including access road funding.

Completing the road project would allow easier access to PAS Technologies, a Hobart Drive company which recently joined Pratt & Whitney easlier in signing an agreement which would expand work at the Hillsboro PAS facility.

The agreement establishes PAS as the exclusive designated service provider for selected repairs on Pratt & Whitney and IAE engine models. Under the long-term agreement, PAS will perform selected repairs on the PW2000, PW4000 and IAE V2500 engine families.

PAS will perform this work at its Hillsboro and Kansas City, Mo., facilities with the possibility of bringing 40 or more local jobs. In order to provide better access to the facility, the road construction would need to be completed.

An announcement regarding the first of three phases, will be made by PAS today at the Hi-Tec Center at 1 p.m. A decision regarding phases two and three has not been made, but if the Hillsboro facility is selected, it could bring in another 130 jobs in the second phase alone.

Commissioner Shane Wilkin said it would also bring the need for facility expansion and that the owner of five acres stretching from behind PAS to state Route 73 would have to give the land to the city for this to happen. The road would pass through the area where the five acres are located.

As for the funding, Otworth said he wants to assure that every avenue is explored for the project's construction.