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Washington-Centerville Library

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Library Plans to Improve Access and Egress at Woodbourne Library

A cooperative agreement between Washington-Centerville Public Library and the City of Centerville, with financial support from Washington Township, will result in a new rear driveway for Woodbourne Library. Library officials recently announced that the rear drive project, which has been in talks for numerous years, is coming to fruition and will dramatically improve egress from the Woodbourne Library located at 6060 Far Hills Avenue. "Anyone who has attempted to make a left-hand turn out of the current Woodbourne Library parking lot understands the necessity of this project. This one-way rear driveway will not only make it easier to get out of the parking lot, it will make driving conditions much safer," commented Library Board of Trustees President, Randell Bowling.

The City of Centerville and Washington Township, recognizing the need to improve citizen safety at this traffic juncture, have each agreed to provide \$50,000 in financial support for the project, which is estimated to cost \$445,000. "Trustees are glad to contribute to a project that improves safety and convenience for library patrons," said Joyce Young, president of the Washington Township Board of Trustees. "The Woodbourne driveway benefits the community as a whole and fits in well with our policy to identify and support projects located within city limits that serve all of our residents, both incorporated and unincorporated." The remaining costs not covered by the City /Township will be paid for out of the Library's capital projects fund.

In addition to financial support, the City will provide engineering, zoning expertise and lead the construction administration of the rear driveway egress project. "The City is delighted to assist in providing funding and technical support for this important safety improvement for motorists," said Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed. "This is a great example of cooperation between public and private entities which benefits the entire community. We always need to be on the lookout for ways to combine resources and work together more effectively."

The one-way, rear driveway will connect the Woodbourne Library parking lot to nearby North Village Drive, allowing library visitors to exit the property more safely and use the existing traffic light at N. Village Drive to turn either north or south on State Route 48. Library visitors will continue to enter the library parking lot via Far Hills Avenue. "This project would not be possible without the cooperation of many different players. In addition to the support provided by the City and the Township, the adjacent property owners have been most helpful. The Conner Group, who owns the apartment complex behind Woodbourne Library, and George Wang, owner of North China Restaurant, donated small parcels of land to make way for the rear driveway. Each business was very willing to do what was needed to improve safety for local residents," said Mr. Bowling.

A start date for the construction project has yet to be determined but library officials hope to begin as soon as possible. "The Library Board has been discussing this project since shortly after I joined. Several past, as well as present, board members have worked very hard to make this rear egress a reality and it has been so worth the effort," said Sarah Rickman, library board member since 1996.

For more information on the Washington-Centerville Public Library, contact the library at 433-8091 or visit www.wclibrary.info.

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