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## YOUR COMMUTE

# 'Dangerous' intersection work set

Ohio 4, South Gilmore, Holden Boulevard to be improved.

By Eric Robbette  
Staff Writer

One of the city's most accident-heavy intersections is due for a makeover to make it safer.

The \$2.7 million project to widen and improve the intersection of Ohio 4, South Gilmore Road and Holden Boulevard is set to begin in 2015. City

Council this week authorized \$219,822 in city funds for preliminary engineering on the project.

Along Holden and Gilmore, the project will begin south of the intersection of Parkland Hills Drive and South Gilmore, and the work will run north to the intersection of Port Union/North Gilmore and Holden. Holden will be widened to include a second through lane to South Gilmore. South Gilmore will also be widened to include a second and longer left turn lane onto northbound Ohio 4.

In addition, the intersection will be upgraded to the mast arm style with illuminated lane use signs. The entire intersection will be resurfaced, according to city documentation.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is funding 90 percent of the project with a grant, making Fairfield's share of the costs approximately \$267,000, said Dave Butsch, the city's public works director. City Manager Art Pizzano called that intersection "one of the most dangerous" in the city. The Gilmore/Holden inter-

section was the site of the most crashes in the city during the past three years, according to a JournalNews analysis of police statistics.

There were 17 crashes in 2009, 16 in 2010 and 21 in 2011 at the intersection. Injury crashes numbered six in 2009 and 2010, and seven in 2011, according to police officer Doug Day.

By contrast, most signaled intersections had less than 10 crashes of any kind, per year, according to police statistics. Fairfield High School, at

8800 Holden, is near that intersection. The district stopped busing there in 2011 as part of \$8 million in cuts.

"That is one of our most over capacity intersections. Gilmore and Holden are heavy side streets that let out near there, and Gilmore has a lot of commuter traffic," said City Engineer Ben Mann.

Backups also cause problems at adjacent intersections, particularly Parkland Hills Drive and Holden/North Gilmore and Port Union Road, according to city documents.