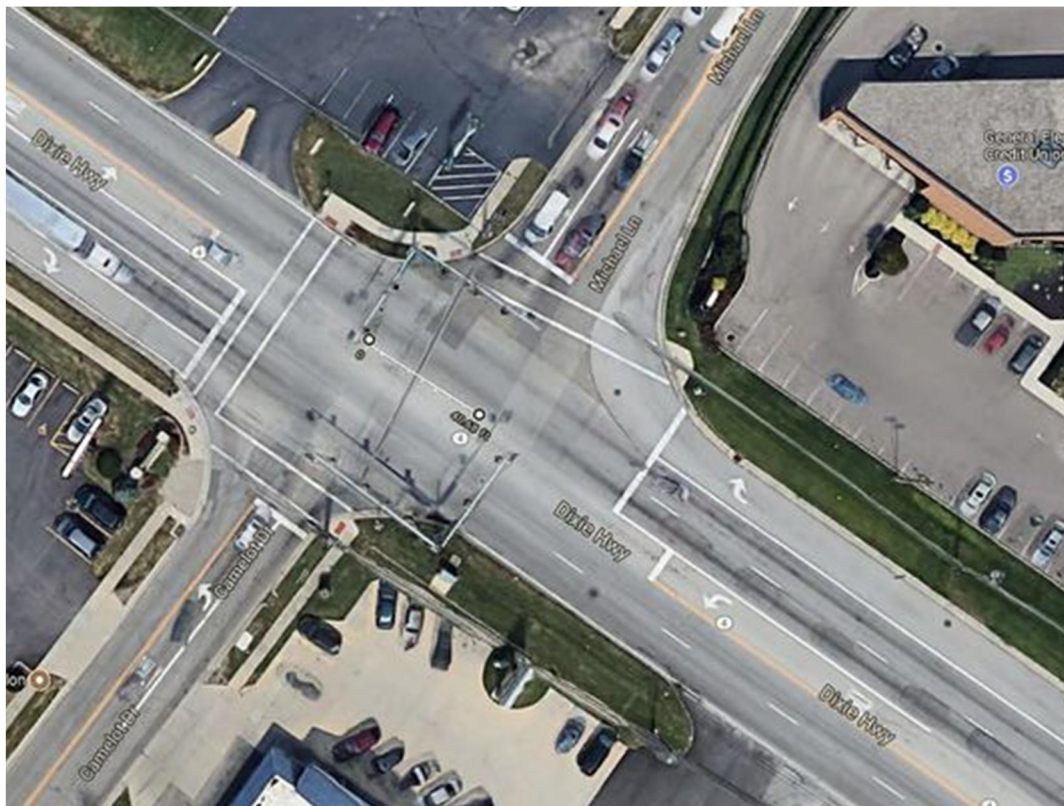


Funding in place to align Michael Lane and Camelot Drive in Fairfield

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Fairfield received an Ohio Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvement grant to realign the Ohio 4-Camelot Drive-Michael Lane intersection. (Photo: Provided photo)

FAIRFIELD – An Ohio Department of Transportation grant will pay 90 percent of the cost to realign the Ohio 4/Michael Lane/Camelot Drive intersection in Fairfield.

“Michael Lane and Camelot Drive don’t line up – they’re offset pretty far,” said Ben Mann, Fairfield’s staff engineer.

The intersection is among the top 20 accident sites in the city, including a fatality each in 2006 and 2012, Mann said.

From 2015-2017 there was property damaged in 25 crashes at the intersection and 22 accidents with injuries.

About 43,000 vehicles per day pass through the intersection. It is just north of Jungle Jim's International Market and provides access to the new Planet Fitness which opened late last year.

"It's the only major intersection along Route 4 that doesn't have a left turn arrow from Ohio 4 to Michael Lane or Camelot Drive," Mann said. "That causes people to take chances."

There are left turn arrows from Michael Lane and Camelot Drive onto Ohio 4, but because of the timing, it means there's a shorter cycle for through traffic Ohio 4 at the intersection.

"That creates a bottleneck on Route 4 between intersections," Mann said.

Once the two roads on either section of Ohio 4 are aligned – removing the jog – the timing of the light will be changed, which should lessen the bottleneck, Mann said.

But don't look for construction to begin anytime soon.

Engineering work will begin late this year after all required documents are signed and continue into next year, Mann said.

Utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition will take place in 2020-2021, with construction anticipated in 2022, Mann said.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$1.6 million. The Highway Safety Improvement Grant from ODOT will pay 90 percent of the cost, with Fairfield picking up the rest.