

Plans for bypass to proceed

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BY RYAN TRACY

STAFF WRITER

ROBBINSVILLE -- After sitting dormant for years, plans for a bypass road between two state highways here have been revived, township and state officials said yesterday.

The bypass, designed to divert traffic away from a busy corridor at the heart of this growing suburb, is part of a larger vision for a walkable Main Street alongside Robbinsville Town Center.

The bypass would connect Route 33 to Route 130 along the township's border with Hamilton, allowing vehicles to pass through the area without driving past Town Center.

It also could alleviate traffic on nearby roads in Hamilton that have been used as a shortcut between the two highways.

"Everyone who bought into the Town Center concept is going to be excited that this road is now back on the books," said Mayor Dave Fried.

Fried met yesterday with state Department of Transportation Commissioner Stephen Dilts to discuss the matter and called the meeting "an absolute pleasure."

"We really believed that the bypass road as originally" planned was dead, Fried said.

Hamilton Mayor John Bencivengo also attended the meeting and called Dilts' quick action on the project "unbelievable."

"I think it is something that's going to help the regional traffic," Bencivengo said of the bypass.

The town had considered other locations for the bypass, which is viewed as a necessary piece if new development across Route 33 from the current Town Center is to become a reality.

Robbinsville owns about 42 acres in the area dubbed Town Center South and wants to sell that land to a developer. The town is also spending at least \$400,000 to expand sewer service on the south side of Route 33.

Without a bypass road, Fried said, the development of Town Center South would bring too much traffic to "the middle" of what has been envisioned as "a walkable community."...