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Grade separation project looms large on Munster's horizon



An artist's rendering shows the southwest view of the 45th Street grade separation in Munster.

March 15, 2015 12:00 am • [Jim Masters Times Correspondent](#)

MUNSTER | No project looms bigger for the town of Munster than the grade separation project to alleviate traffic congestion at 45th Street and Calumet Avenue.

Munster Town Manager Dustin Anderson estimates the project will require approximately \$36 million for completion. As the town seeks any and all funding sources at the state and national level, including a federal TIGER Grant, engineering and preliminary planning work remains active and on schedule.

Anderson said the project offers regional implications in terms of its impact on transportation, as well as local benefits in regard create economic development. A hotel project on the north side of 45th now that Munster Steel has moved to a new facility in Hammond, thereby clearing the way for new construction.

Emphasizing that residents will have a say over future development in Munster, Anderson said, "We want to initiate a community conversation on that front."

He noted that Munster is essentially built up, as there is no more room for new roads or subdivision. So, it will be a matter of enhancing the existing infrastructure and redeveloping underutilized commercial sites.

"We need to determine how to pivot and take what we have to enhance property values," he said.

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