

## Clermont TID prepares for roundabout in Eastgate

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**UNION TWP.** — A roundabout soon may replace two intersections near Jungle Jim’s International Market.

Commissioners June 12 authorized the Clermont County Transportation Improvement District to prepare bids and administer a construction contract for a roundabout near the intersection of Eastgate South Drive and Clepper Lane.

It would eliminate traffic signals at the intersection, said county traffic engineer Jeremy Evans. It also would get rid of stop signs at two private drives, which intersect Eastgate South Drive in front of Jungle Jim’s and the Eastgate Station strip center. The proximity of the intersections slows traffic and confuses some drivers.

“Part of our goal is to clean that up, to make it easier to navigate and to help traffic flow in the future,” Evans said.

The roundabout would direct traffic in a counter-clockwise circle around a landscaped median, he said. Drivers travel around the circle and make a right turn to exit onto their desired streets. Traffic does not stop, so drivers entering a roundabout must yield to those inside it.

“A roundabout is one of the most efficient ways to move traffic,” said Union Township Administrator Ken Geis. “We’re thrilled that it’s a possibility.”

Replacing the existing intersections would improve traffic flow from Jungle Jim’s, Walmart and other retailers, he said.

“Anything that improves the traffic flow is going to make the area more marketable,” Geis said.

The project is expected to cost about \$900,000, Evans said. An Ohio Public Works Commission grant is expected to cover 80 percent of the cost. The TID would pay the remaining 20 percent.

TID representatives are conducting appraisals and meeting with property owners to acquire right of way for the project, Evans said. Three entities - Union Township Community Improvement Corporation, Leisure Properties LTD and 168 Eastgate LLC - own property in the project area.

Construction most likely will start next spring, Evans said.