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Route 145 to Get Safety Upgrade

A strip of roadway that is the site of frequent vehicle crashes will soon get \$3.5 million in upgrades designed to improve safety.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has awarded the money as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for a project to reduce crashes along Route 145, from Susquehanna Street to Emmaus Avenue in Allentown.

The nearly one-mile stretch of road passes in front of the Mountainville Shopping Center.

“That’s a high crash location and this will do a lot to improve safety there,” said Michael Donchez, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Senior Transportation Planner. “The intent is to reduce roadway angle crashes and head-on crashes.”

HSIP is a competitive grant program that offers “Set Aside” safety project money in addition to the \$458 million being allocated over four years to fund highway, bridge and transit projects in the Lehigh Valley.

The Route 145 project calls for resurfacing, turning lane improvements, signal and lighting changes and new signage.

The project is scheduled to begin next year when \$500,000 is released for engineering, followed by \$3 million worth of construction in 2020 and 2021. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2021.