

Group seeks to identify link

Naming Columbus-to-Pittsburgh Corridor proves expensive

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DENNISON — The Columbus-to-Pittsburgh Corridor group, seeking completion of a four-lane highway link across seven Ohio counties including U.S. Route 22 through Harrison and Jefferson counties, is continuing efforts to find one name

for the corridor.

As it is, motorists can drive from the Ohio River to Columbus without leaving a contiguous highway system but drive along six numbered routes. The corridor committee, which has been working for several years on seeing the expressway link completed, has proposed route numbers and other concepts, but they're con-

sidered too costly by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The committee, which met Friday in the Dennison Depot Museum, discussed a proposal from Realtor Tony Guida of Steubenville, one of Jefferson County's representatives to the group. Guida sug-

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gested a less-costly alternative following along the lines of the colored belt identifier signs around Pittsburgh.

Ed Looman of Progress Alliance, who is the county's other representative and co-chair of the highway group, said the name could be designated through the Legislature, though caution would be needed not to overwhelm dedication of names already along the highway (such as the Art Bowers Memorial Highway around Steubenville).

Looman said the feasibility study on the need to build a 28-mile four-lane stretch through Harrison County from Dennison to Cadiz is running about three months

behind.

The final feasibility study now is expected to be completed sometime in September.

ODOT said it wants a more formal sign of support from governments along the highway corridor through the seven counties from Columbus to the river. Guida proposed a resolution to be circulated to municipalities, counties and townships that notes the need to provide an improved highway link and the economic benefit the 160-mile road — much of which already is complete and designated by various route numbers — would bring. No deadline was set on reworking the proposed resolu-

tion of support or on getting it circulated.

The corridor tourism committee is considering three proposals from marketing firms and will decide in the near future on a selection to market the highway corridor as a tourism opportunity.

The committee also discussed holding a political forum for state representatives and senators in the counties along the corridor.

The group's next meeting will be April 16 at Historic Fort Steuben in downtown Steubenville.

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