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New road opens to Putnam's Liberty Square

By Mike Hricik
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CHRIS DORST | Gazette

The new connector road may help alleviate congestion on Teays Valley Road.

TEAYS VALLEY — A new, one-mile stretch of road has opened to help alleviate some of the congestion on Teays Valley Road.

After an opening ceremony last week, drivers may now access a three-lane connector road, bridging Liberty Park Drive and U.S. 35. It is located at the Teays Valley exit of Interstate 64, effectively bypassing the highway.

With the route leading directly to Liberty Square, new businesses may develop along the way, said project developer T.J. Summers of Four-S Development.

“Our hope is to get additional businesses to come,” Summers said. “I’m sure it’s going to get bigger, but by how much? We don’t know yet.”

With the recent opening of the Aldi grocery store, Liberty Square is expected to get more traffic than ever, Summers said. Panera Bread also recently announced it will be opening a location there next year.

Partnering with local businesses, the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and the state helped with the \$2.9 million project. Local developers will not receive any reimbursement for their contribution, Summers said.

“The state saw value in this as well, so moving forward with it was a big priority,” he said.

It took 10 years for talks with area politicians and entrepreneurs for the road to come to fruition, Summers said.

Now, the only construction left to do is erecting more signs along the road, as crews hunker down for the winter, he said.

Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Dusty Hurley said for an expanding county, the new road is a welcome sight.

“Just like everyone else in the county, we’re excited to see what grows along it,” Hurley said.

Joe Moran of Scott Depot, who was shopping at Liberty Square’s Home Depot on Tuesday, said he had taken the road.

“I wanted to check it out for myself,” Moran said.

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