

## **PA Turnpike**

The second grant is a Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Grant for the amount of \$2.6 million. If awarded, this grant will be earmarked to build a quick exit (zip) ramp from the PA Turnpike's Fort Washington interchange directly into the office park at Commerce Dr. According to Jack Smyth, Principal of Boles Smyth Associates Inc., the engineering firm that is currently working on several office park projects, the zip ramp's estimated cost is \$2.6 million. This would be a major improvement to access into the office park.

The township manager, Paul Leonard, Jack Smyth, and former Commissioner Bob Pesavento, chair of the office park redevelopment committee, met with the Turnpike Commission to discuss the zip ramp. This exit would be immediately after the tollbooths and next to the Best Western hotel. The folks in Harrisburg offered some constructive comments, primarily about signage, and will be evaluating content for the necessary engineering. A further discussion was held concerning the completion of the Virginia Drive slip ramp from the turnpike (entrance and exit for east bound traffic). The cost to the turnpike is estimated to be \$30 million, with the expectation that the turnpike will be expanded to four lanes in each direction. However, the turnpike commission is considering expanding the highway to FIVE lanes in each direction, which would increase the cost of the slip ramp. In any case, the township is working hand-in-hand with the County on the completion of the Virginia Drive slip ramp as well as a potential slip ramp at Welsh Road (Prudential).