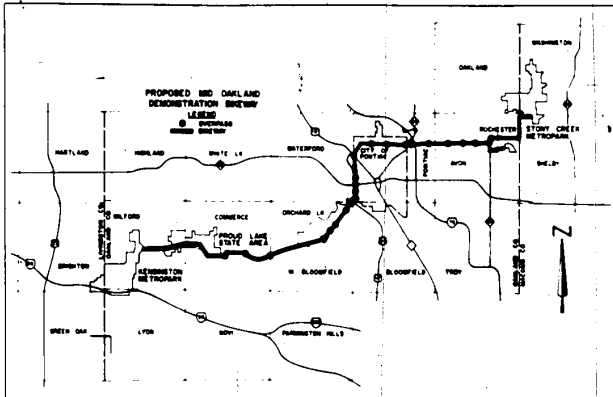


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The road commission's proposed bikeway is 34 miles long.

Oakland seeks bikeway funds

The Oakland County Road Commission would like to build a 34-mile bikeway right across the middle of Oakland County. It would be a \$4.75 million project that would link two metropolitan parks and a state park and meander through some of the county's most impressive scenery. The final decision on the project will be made by the federal highway administration, probably sometime this fall. The Oakland County Board of Road Commissioners recently gave its enthusiastic support to an application for 80 per cent federal funding of the proposed demonstration project under provisions of the 1974 federal highway act.

As well as recreation, increasing reliance on bicycles for useful transportation would reduce gasoline consumption and air and noise pollution. It would be a real boon to families who cannot afford to own and operate one or more automobiles.

FROM THE entrance of Stony Creek Metro park, the bikeway would meander to Rochester by way of 26 Mile, Dequandre, Parkdale, Romeo Road and Main Street. Here, a spur would branch off to Rochester-Utica State Park, while the main bikeway would continue west along University Drive and Walton Boulevard to intersect Telegraph just north of the county center, passing through the northern portion of Portac.

It would then turn south along Telegraph, past Postac Mall and along the west limit of Portac to Orchard Lake Road. From that point it would run southwest between Orchard Lake Road and the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, picking up Portac Trail, skirting or going through Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village, Commerce Township, Wilson, Waverly Lake and Walled Lake to an overpass over proposed M-275 expressway where it will join the bikeway paralleling M-275. From there it will run west through the Proud Lake Recreation Area through right-of-way once reserved for the never-constructed Sydney Warden parkway to Kentonville Metro park.

Harris noted that approximately two miles of the proposed bikeway are presently under construction as part of an Oakland County Road Commission project to widen Walton Boulevard from Adams Road to the west limit of Rochester.

VICE-CHAIRMAN John Gau Jr. of the road board said the plan makes "good sense" to him. "I've contended for more than a year — regardless of permissive law — that it is suicidal to mix vehicle and bicycle traffic on busy roads. This plan would save lives and needless suffering."

Road Commissioner William M. Richards saw wide-ranging benefits for the proposed bikeway. "In addition to broadening recreation potential for the more than five-million residents of southeast Michigan," Richards said, "this mid-Oakland demonstration bikeway would serve other important purposes of public policy. I am sure its existence would stimulate bordering local government units to build trails looking into this one."

The resulting network of trails would provide a desirable alternative to the automobile for shopping and other purposes.



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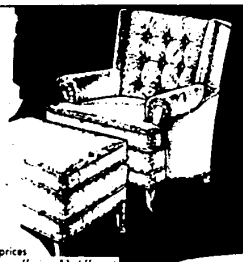
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