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TELEGRAPH AT
ELIZABETH LAKE
WATERFORD TWP.

M-275 controversy rekindled

Alternative offered to parkway plan

By JUDITH BERNÉ

A West Bloomfield group has come up with a plan for improvement of existing roads as an alternative to the proposed extension of Northwestern Highway.

Representatives of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield (CCWB) will trek to Lansing, Wednesday to view the effect of their suggestions on the State Highway Commission.

The four-man commission is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. to review the latest recommendation of the State Highway Department that the scrapped M-275 freeway plan through western Oakland County be replaced with a parkway system along the same route. No decisions are expected.

If M-275 or an alternate is not built, the highway department continues to recommend cancelling the proposed 9.6-mile extension of Northwestern which was to tie into it.

By recommending the parkway be built, the department would keep Northwestern a part of the picture. Northwestern currently deadends at Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

IN A LETTER to Highway Commission Chairman Peter Fletcher, Concerned Citizens pres. Harry Brown outlined the following improvements to local roads:

- Redesign and construct a new intersection at Northwestern Highway, Fourteen Mile and Orchard Lake roads;

- Widen Orchard Lake Road to five lanes from Grand River to Pontiac Trail;

- Improve Haggerty Road and desig-

nate it a state trunk line from Grand River to Union Lake roads;

- Surface the one remaining unpaved mile of Farmington Road from Fourteen Mile to Maple;

- Widen 1496 from Telegraph west to three lanes in each direction to alleviate the present congestion at 1496 and Northwestern;

- Explore design alternatives where possible to help retain the environmental sensitivity and beauty of a township with wetlands, streams and 25 lakes that shed water into three major rivers—the Huron, Clinton and Rouge.

BROWN REPORTS the CCWB letter reached the commission ahead of the highway department's recent recommendation to substitute a parkway for the M-275 freeway, cancelled by the commission in January.

"Our organization is on record opposing M-275 or any alternative to it which would in itself create a need for Northwestern," Brown said.

"The department's current recommendation appears to differ from the previously proposed freeway only in its lack of grade separations, and on this basis would be unacceptable to us."

He said Concerned Citizens has held up its specific alternatives to the extension of Northwestern until now for two reasons:

- "We feel it confirms our previous commitments to provide ongoing citizen input for the commission in its study of transportation needs of the area."

- "We also feel that having workable alternatives from area residents will serve as a valuable tool in the com-

mission's decision-making process on the Northwestern project."

THE PARKWAY PLAN, like the original freeway design, would require construction from 196 in Novi north to 1475 near Clarkson but calls for a considerable increase in traffic intersections.

The decision to scrap the original plan directly affected the proposed extension of Northwestern. The highway department, a proponent of the Northwestern addition, turned against it.

"We don't usually build freeways which dead-end," a highway department spokesman said at the time.

In June, highway commissioners asked the department to make a study of where motorists traveling Northwestern are going and where they've been.

In addition, they asked for background data on Northwestern's intersection with Twelve Mile, with Fourteen Mile and Orchard Lake roads and recommendations for possible improvements to Orchard Lake Road and Maple, west of Orchard Lake Road.

Commissioner Weston Vivian said the study was needed "regardless of what decision we make" on the Northwestern question which has pitted environmentalists against developers and the Oakland County Road Commission for a number of years.

Since then, federal money has come through for the widening of Orchard Lake Road from Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills to Maple in West Bloomfield.

Obituaries

ESTELLE R. FLOOD

Mrs. Estelle Flood, 80, of 3041 West Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills, died Aug. 14 in Providence Hospital after a brief illness. Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with Msgr. Thomas Behan officiating. Arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home, and burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Flood was a retired science teacher in Detroit elementary schools, including Santa Maria, Halley, Bagley, and St. Mary's of Redford; and a teacher at St. Agatha School in Red-

ford Township. She was past president of the Senior Citizen Guild of Farmington, and a member of the Native Detroit Women's Club, Blue Star Mothers of Michigan; and auxiliary member for the Monument of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit.

She also was a member of the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired People.

A Farmington Hills resident since 1954, Mrs. Flood is survived by her sons James C. and Jeremiah T.; daughters Gretchen O'Donnell, Madeleine Damm, Frances Brown, and Barbara Hommel; and 24 grandchildren.

WILLIAM F. HOCHSTEIN, SR.

Mr. William Hochstein, Sr., 69, of Farmington, died suddenly Aug. 15. Services were held Aug. 19 at Honeysundquist Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul E. Olson officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia.

Mr. Hochstein was born in Kuckelein, West Germany and came to the U.S. in 1929. He was the owner of Hochstein Heating and Cooling, Inc. for 25 years.

Surviving are his sons Clyde Thomson, and William F. Hochstein, Jr.; daughter Ms. Nancy Kendall; two brothers and three sisters who reside in West Germany; and sister Mrs. Ann Schaurte of Detroit.



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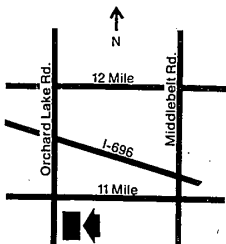
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