

# Political foot-dragging charged in M-275 alternative planning

Two members of the Michigan State Highway Commission are displeased with a proposed \$2 million, four-year study of alternatives to the now-cancelled M-275 freeway project.

Commission Chairman Peter B. Fletcher and Commissioner Weston Vivian think the proposed study would be too costly and lengthy, and last week both accused the Department of State Highways and Transportation of delaying the study.

The commissioners said it appeared that the department was delaying its study so that the three members who voted to cancel M-275 last January—Fletcher, Vivian and Hannes Myers—may not be on the commission when a final recommendation is made in 1981. Unless they are reappointed, all three opponents of M-275 will lose their seats before that time. The four-member commission is appointed by the governor for four-year terms.

Vivian also indicated that the commission may order some west Oakland County road improvements next year, without departmental reports and recommendations. Last May, Vivian suggested intersection improvements for Northwestern Highway at Twelve Mile Road and Fourteen Mile Orchard Lake.

After blasting the highway department for the alleged delaying tactics and the Oakland County Road Commission for appealing a recent State Court of Appeals ruling against the proposed extension of Northwestern

Highway, the commission told the department to come up with another report on the M-275 alternatives by next month.

Department Director John Woodford defended the proposed study, saying that staff engineers have to begin new surveys on west Oakland road needs because of commission criticisms of earlier studies.

After the meeting, Jim Rienstra, the highway department's M-275 alternatives study coordinator, said he still doesn't know exactly what the commission wants as a report.

Rienstra said the department staff will meet in the near future to discuss what type of report it will present to the commission next month.

"I'm still in the dark on this," the coordinator said. "In the next couple of weeks, I would guess, we'll try to get some direction from the commission on what they want. Maybe we should give them a questionnaire."

Part of the study, he added, should deal with a complete analysis of county roads. But Rienstra also said that the extensive origin-destination survey requested by Vivian would take 18 months to complete.

"I think the purpose of the study was to find all improvements that are necessary," Rienstra continued.

As proposed by Rienstra, the alternatives study would cost some \$2 million, primarily for new aerial photographs, an origin-destination survey, and the services of an outside consultant.

In a recent letter to Stephen Rosman, chairman of the Citizens in Opposition to M-275, the coordinator outlined a timetable that calls for a final recommendation to be made by Sept. 30, 1981.


Fletcher last week questioned why the department doesn't know more about an area in which it planned to build a \$70-million freeway, adding, "You're starting at much more of a ground zero than necessary."

Rosman and Dick Grow, of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) which also opposed M-275, blasted the department for dragging its feet on the alternatives study.

Rosman has noted that opponents of the original freeway feel that something should be done to improve traffic conditions in west Oakland County and his group has proposed an alternative that calls for improvements, but not widening, of a corridor along Hagerty, Richardson, Union Lake and Williams Lake roads.


In scrapping M-275 last January, Fletcher said that rising road construction costs and the need for a balanced transportation system made it impossible for the state to build every mile of highway it had ever planned.

However, the commission agreed that there are road problems in west Oakland County and said it would work to correct those problems.



## Sale

Practically everything  
in our **Polo Shop**  
**20% - 50% OFF**  
**mackenzie's**  
Somerset Mall Open Mon. thru Fri. 10-6



elegant porcelain basins  
and accessories by  
Sherie Wagner  
at  
**bathsheba**  
inc.  
415 N. Fifth Avenue  
in Kerrytown, Ann Arbor  
995-1016

**BALLY** of Switzerland

## It's a BALLY Shoe Sale!

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
...ON OUR  
**LADIES' SHOES  
AND DRESS BOOTS.**

SHOES FORMERLY \$54. - \$110.  
**NOW \$29. - \$69.**  
BOOTS FORMERLY \$89. - \$260.  
**NOW \$69. - \$149.**

If you think our shoes are comfortable you should  
see our prices. Selected styles... colors, sizes limited.

**BALLY SHOPS**  
Troy, Michigan  
2877 Somerset Mall 313/643-6866

We accept American Express and all major credit cards.

**BALLY** of Switzerland

Fine Furniture Since 1917

Visit Our Pennsylvania House Galleries

## Stewart-Glenn

### 61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL Winter Sale.

## Stewart-Glenn ANNOUNCES OUR STOREWIDE WINTER SALE

Savings amount from 10% to 20% and more and everything is included except a few price established items.

Visit our Pennsylvania House Gallery. Save 20% on all the items pictured. Also save 20% on all of the pieces in their fine upholstery Collection including Sleepers and selected wood pieces from their Cherry, Oak, Maple and Pine collections.

You will also find sale prices on such leading manufacturers as Canover, Clyde Pearson, Statton, Berne, Temple-Stuart, Stanley, Rembrandt, Stiffel, White of Mebane, La-Z-Boy, Franklin, Stearns and Foster Personalized Bedding and Sleepers and many others.

All Lamps, Wall and Table accessories, Clocks and accent pieces are included.

**SPECIAL ORDERS are at sale prices.**

If we don't have what you want we will order it for you at the sale price.

**DECORATING SERVICE** can be had for the asking. Our interior designers are here to help you make the right decisions.










**Stewart-Glenn**

2600 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
Just South of Square Lake Road 332-8348  
open Monday, Thursday, Friday Evenings 10-7 p.m.

STEWART-GLENN CO.  
"YOUR FULL SERVICE STORE"  
has no extra charge for  
• Careful Inspection and Setup  
• Courteous Delivery Service  
• Generous Storewide Parking

Ask our Interior Designers to help with your decorating problems.  
.....  
Use our 4 Pay Plan (no interest)  
or use your Master Charge or BankAmericard.



## Saks Fifth Avenue's Glorious Storewide Clearance

Save a spectacular 30% to 50% on just about everything you need when it comes to fashion.

In the Men's Store, you'll find 25% to 50% off on great sportswear clothing and furnishings too.

**Saks Fifth Avenue**

Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at C Village