

## Northwestern project lacks federal funding

A statement made by a state highway commission spokesman last week stunned members of the citizens advisory committee of the proposed Northwestern Highway extension, according to Commerce Township (COWB) President Sheila Ostley.

Mrs. Ostley said G. Robert Adams told the 14 committee members that no federal funding is now or has been considered for the proposed extension.

"It was a bombshell when he told us it was to be strictly a state project," said Mrs. Ostley. "When we asked why we were there working on a federally required environmental impact statement, he told us it was in case federal revenue was ever applied for."

The committee, Mrs. Ostley said, voted on two important issues with both votes tallied at 10-4, although not by the same voters.

Commerce Township and the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce had asked to be included with representation on the citizens advisory board but were turned down.

## Peeling walls? aid available

Should a paint job last longer, or a repainting every few years just part of being a homeowner?

Normal wear and tear are to be expected, said Jim Cullen, manager of the Sherwin Williams Decorating Center in Farmington Hills.

No paint job can stand up forever to the elements of nature.

Paint problems such as peeling, flaking and cracking are another matter, he said.

"These are conditions that will quickly affect the durability of any new coat of paint, if the underlying causes are not identified and remedied first," said Cullen.

Before the house can be painted it must be prepared properly, he added.

If the paint is lifting away from the house in small, scattered patches, the problem is "blistering." This is usually caused by excessive moisture on the side wall of the house, he said.

When these blisters crack, peeling occurs. As the bare wood is exposed, moisture is introduced from the outside of the house and the peeling spreads, said Cullen.

Another problem is "chalking," which is recognized by the powdery surface, according to Cullen. Chalking occurs when the paint is worn away by the weather.

"Cracking" or "alligatoring" is easy to spot because the paint looks like an alligator's skin, he said. The cause is usually too many coats of paint within a short period of time.

Exterior plywood is often plagued by "checking." This is identified by parallel cracks in the paint film, he said. "How to Spot 'N' Solve House Paint Problems" is a free pamphlet available from Cullen.

The committee did vote to recommend enlarging the area of study all the way from Telegraph in Southfield to Flint so more alternatives could be included, Mrs. Ostley said.

The contract between the Oakland County Road Commission and the highway department, unimplemented for 25 years, calls for the proposed extension to terminate at U.S. 23 in Holly, but neither body has talked of extending it beyond M-70 in Commerce Township, saying it could be negotiated.

It has been three years since citizen groups halted the plans for the extension and demanded an environmental impact study.

Last fall the Michigan Court of Appeals dismissed the road commission's suit to force the building of the extension.

In June the Michigan Supreme Court ruled the lower court must hear a case which several resident groups are seeking to enter with the highway department which is the plaintiff.

The next meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled for July 27.

Walker Oster, who is chairman of the committee, has not been present since the first meeting. The committee has been selecting a chairman for each meeting.

A technical advisory committee meets separately to review the highway study plan.

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