

Communication gap hampers progress on Northwestern

By RON GABINSKI
Lack of communication between the Department of State Highways and the Northwestern Citizens Advisory Committee seems to be the cause of the recent conflict over road improvements at the



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Twelve Mile and Northwestern intersection in Southfield.
At least that's the opinion of several members of the group at its meeting Tuesday night at the Farmington Hill City Hall when the highway department failed to notify them of the road widening project.
To alleviate this problem in the future, the committee passed a resolution recommending that the state department keep the group advised of any improvements, safety or otherwise, planned for Northwestern Highway.
In the past, committee members claim, the highway department hasn't provided the group with information on changes made within the Northwestern Highway impact study area, which affects residents in Southfield, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.
The highway department plans to add a third lane to northbound and southbound Northwestern, construct three directional U-turn crossovers and relocate Franklin Road so traffic bottlenecks in the vicinity of the Twelve Mile-Franklin Road area will be reduced.

"WHAT APPEARS to be the problem here is a lack of communication between the department and our committee. Why is there such privacy about these matters," said Dorrie Lebow, a committee representative from the Village of Franklin.
Why weren't we informed about these

Movies are continuing

The Friday Film Series shown on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College continues with "Sounder" on July 30.
The movies shown at dusk are free for senior citizens. For others there is a charge.
Those scheduled for August are: "The Gambler" with James Caan, Aug. 4; "Rosemary's Baby" with Mia Farrow, Aug. 13; "Brothers & Sisters in Concert" with Roberta Flack and Sammy Davis, Aug. 20; and "Night at the Opera" and "Day at the Races" with the Marx Brothers, Aug. 27.
The campus is on the southwest corner of Orchard Lake and Twelve Mile. For information on where the movies are shown call the student activities office, 678-9400 ext. 421.

improvements. Area residents are entitled to know what impact these actions will have on their respective communities," she continued.

"Why wasn't the Citizens Advisory Committee advised of these scheduled changes in Northwestern Highway? How is an environmental impact study wasn't undertaken to assess the impact that action may have?"

While Mrs. Lebow pressed for a halt of construction plans until an impact study is completed, several other members of the committee claimed the project didn't deal with the primary purpose of the citizens group.
"Their primary concern should be to consider the major impacts of the expansion of the highway and not short range safety improvements," said Mark Schiavoni, Southfield's representative to the group.
"This is a minor project, just minor repair," he said. "We're not dealing with major construction and all these improvements will be ripped up if a limited access highway or freeway is built in the future. These improvements are totally within Southfield and have bearing only in that immediate area."

STATE HIGHWAY officials attending the meeting said financing for the project will come from the division's Spot Safety Improvement Fund and the City of Southfield.
Estimates place the cost to Southfield at \$29.275 with the state department funding the rest of the \$23,000 project.
Six million dollars is allocated each year to the spot safety fund to improve isolated areas around the state where hazards exist.

"What we're trying to do at Twelve Mile and Northwestern is correct an immediate problem," said a department spokesman.
"It's not an expanded construction project and we're not rebuilding, just constructing and resurfacing. What we hope to gain by these extra lanes is to give us a couple more precious seconds to rid the intersection of the traffic bottlenecks now existing there," the spokesman continued.

Happy Birthday, Farmington
In order to allow our patients and staff an opportunity to participate in the Farmington Founder's Festival, our office will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, July 29 and 30, and will be closed Saturday, July 31st.
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