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Commissioners snuff M-275 resurrection

Oakland County Board of Commissioners with support of a county road commission request that the state rescind its cancellation of the M-275 freeway.

The 157 vote was a blow to the road commission, which is arguing that it will cost more to build alternatives to M-275 than to build the 38-mile freeway between I-96 and I-75 in the lakes area of Oakland County.

Commissioner Richard Wilcox (R-Ortonville) said he had 7-0 approval of the resolution in his planning and building committee. But when the committee report hit the full board Tuesday, the resolution was pushed aside.

ONLY DEMOCRATIC leader Larry Pernick of Southfield argued against the pro-M-275 resolution, but he scored it in detail.

To the charge that "all the long-range plans for the local communities in western Oakland County have been predicated upon the building of M-275," Pernick replied that not all had actually designated the exact proposed route.

To the charge that "the majority of communities" in western Oakland County want the highway, Pernick said only one — Commerce Township — had actually voted, and the majority of voters were opposed.

To the charge that alternatives to M-275 will cost \$32 million to build, Pernick said, "Personally, I think they (state and county road agencies) would build those roads whether M-275 is there or not."

And to the charge that M-275 would be the least environmentally disruptive course of action, Pernick replied, "Every environmental organization that testified said it was the worst route."

Pernick then moved for postponing consideration of the pro-M-275 resolution. A yes vote had the effect of withholding support from the road commission's position prior to an April 27 public hearing to be conducted by the state highway commission.

HERE IS HOW local commissioners voted on the motion to postpone:
For — Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills), John McDonald (R-Farmington), Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Hills), Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Robert Page (R-Birmingham), Alex Pernick (D-Southfield) and Larry Pernick (D-Southfield).
Against — Henry Hot (R-Troy) and Dennis Murphy (R-Novi).
Absent — Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills) and John Peterson (R-Rochester).

THE HIGHWAY commission will

hold a public hearing on alternatives to M-275 on April 27 in Pontiac. The four-man commission also is expected to hear local opinions on extension of Northwestern Highway into West Bloomfield from its present termination at Orchard Lake Road just north of Fourteen Mile.

The Northwestern issue is a fuzzy one. Its original route was to tie into M-275. Now that M-275 has been cancelled, the question is whether Northwestern should be scrapped or extended anyway, and still dead-end in the middle of a field.

The highway commission voted 3-1 in January to scrap the M-275 route. Pro-M-275 forces were angered because highway staff officials had led them to believe the Oakland freeway wouldn't be decided at that meeting, and only environmental groups opposing M-275 were on hand.

Suburban highway bids sought

The State Highway Commission will take bids April 20 in Lansing on four suburban Oakland and Wayne County road projects, worth an estimated \$99,000.

The projects, estimated costs and completion dates are:
• Repair of pavement joints on 11 miles of I-96 in Novi, Wixom and western Oakland County; \$600,000; October 1977.

• Erosion repair on M-59 at the Ferry Drain east of M-150 in Avon Township; \$20,000; June 1977.

• Telegraph Road repairs in Redford Township and Dearborn Heights; removal of bituminous surface and underlying concrete and resurfacing on the southbound route at intersections of West Chicago, Joy, Ford, Annapolis and Van Born; at the northbound intersection of M-14; and resurfacing northbound Telegraph between Van Born and Dearborn; \$220,000; September 1977.

• A modern restroom on northbound I-75 in Canton Township about 1.5 miles north of US-12; \$150,000; December 1977.

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