

Lathrup eyes final I-696 decision

By CHERYL CHODUN

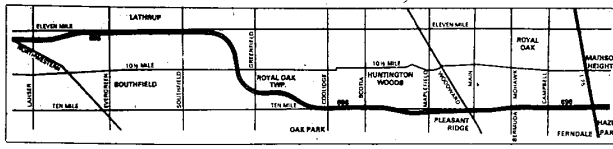
It will be only a matter of months before the long-awaited decision on the disputed I-696 expressway extension through southern Oakland County will be made and President Jimmy Carter may ultimately have the final say.

Lathrup Village Mayor Richard Cogger and City Administrator Jerry Stone reported as much to the Lathrup council Monday evening. Both Cogger and Stone recently attended a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Transportation Department in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from Southfield, Pleasant Ridge, Oak Park, Ferndale, Royal Oak Township, Royal Oak, Huntington Woods and Lathrup Village were at the meeting. The proposed path of the freeway runs through all of these communities.

As presently planned, the highway would connect I-94 in St. Clair Shores with I-696 west of Northwestern Highway in Southfield. So far, construction has been limited to the section between I-75 and I-94, and a short stretch of the extension, east of I-75 is currently in use.

Assistant Secretary of Transportation



Here is a proposed route of the I-696 extension.

tion Martin Convisser chaired the meeting that was intended to get feedback from communities where construction has not yet begun.

Cogger said, "Along with myself, representatives of Pleasant Ridge and Royal Oak Township gave strong presentations against the expressway extension, but most of the other communities were for it."

"Huntington Woods," he continued, "holds a neutral position, just wanting some action to be taken either way."

Cogger said he explained to Convisser the city's feeling that the freeway is a good idea, but the hard-ship since inception of the as yet unapproved section of freeway 20 years ago.

THE MAYOR said he also emphasized the environmental impact on communities along and near to the proposed expressway route during and after the actual construction.

He went on to question the engineering design of the "big ditch," explaining this current design is based on a 1962 traffic count and population distribution, "hinting that it may be outdated."

Convisser's decision will then be reviewed by the Council of Environmental Concerns. This could take up to six months. The council will pass it on to U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Brock Adams and, according to Cogger, a final decision may be made by President Carter.

Lathrup and other communities are opposing the expressway extension because of that Carter's view of the proposed I-696 might be sympathetic toward them, in light of his recent energy conservation plan and proposed concern for the environment.

Cogger and Stone both said that the trip to Washington was worthwhile and that Convisser seemed interested in what all the communities represented had to say. They also agreed that although Lathrup Village always has opposed the I-696 extension, they and all the other community representatives involved need and want to see a final decision.

Athletic supporters pressure board

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

First they read it and then they heard it—and the message to the members of the Birmingham Board of Education was the same each time—do something about athletics in the schools.

The physical education, varsity athletics and intramural study committee reported to the board of education April 19 and most of what individual committee members said has been heard before, both good and bad.

For example, "The key to improving athletics and to a strong physical education and intramural program is strong leadership. It is imperative that the board provide it"—Bud Allen, committee co-chairman.

"Under no conditions should any part of the curriculum be as neglected as physical education has been in Birmingham"—Lucy Kovack, physical

education subcommittee chairperson. Mrs. Kovack, a parent, said she was "amazed and shocked at some of what goes on in some physical education classes." She cited "a few examples of good physical education programs in (the school system) and 'inconsistencies from school to school.'"

MOST of the problems the committee identified in its six-month study could be resolved with "greater coordination and direction from the central administration," dedicated leadership and some realistic programs in (the school system), according to Bill Noakes, chairman of the athletic subcommittee.

Board members responded to the report and opening remarks with comments and questions.

Sylvia Whitmer asked if the committee recommended an overall bud-

et increase or a "shifting of funds we already have?"

"The Seaboard curriculum guide lists 32 art courses," Allen replied. "I suggest you look there."

Trustee Robert Ketchum asked, "Where do we go from here?" and suggested that the work of the committee should be continued and certain areas designated as starting points.

"THERE IS no question that there is a necessity for board action," Bruce Van Deusen said. He recommended that the board develop a plan to implement as many of the committee recommendations as possible with an evaluation of costs.

The primary recommendation of the committee is for a reorganization of the athletic/physical education department and the immediate hiring of a director.

Such action would be a "reversal of a trend to put more decision-making at the building level with the principal," Trustee Imogene Angell said.

The reorganization also suggests uniformity of program rather than a move toward providing alternative options for students, she said.

"It also suggests more administrative staff," Mrs. Angell added. "We have found that decentralization has not worked," Allen explained. Mrs. Kovack cited extremes in programs, adding, "We need someone on top to set guidelines."

Stan Clark, a parent member of the committee, told the board, "We really want to know that after six months of hard work something will be done." The committee report is a "repetition of many things that were said several years ago," board president Donna Hartwig said.

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Resident takes MSU award

Susan Lee Neuhausen of 22134 Ivanhoe Lane, Southfield, was one of three south Oakland County residents to receive awards presented by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Senate at Michigan State University. The awards went to members in the four-

year program and the nine technical programs within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ms. Neuhausen, a senior, received a \$500 award from the Michigan division of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Foundation.

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Kathy Ferguson Grand Cover

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Due to a printing error these corrections should be noted for our tab of April 28.

Pages 1 & 5: Roofing \$16.55 per sq. should have read Roofing \$16.65 per sq.

Page 4: Plywood, Good 1 Side, 1/4"-4"x8' \$7.10 should have read Plywood, Good 1 Side, 1/4"-4"x8' \$7.19

2"x4"-8' Kiln Dried #2 and better-89¢ ea. should have read 2"x4"-7' Kiln Dried #2 and better-89¢ ea.

Garage Package 20"x20" w 12 ft. overhang 16" O.C. should have read 20"x20" w 2 ft. overhang 16" o.c.

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