

# Trunkline need is unclear

By DAVID RAY

There is no clear justification for the provision of state trunkline service in western Oakland County, according to John P. Woodford, director of the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation.

That conclusion was included in a five-page report, dated February 10, from Woodford to the Michigan Department of State Highways Commission in response to a comment made last January by Commissioner Weston E. Vivian.

"The basic question of whether the provision of state trunkline service within western Oakland County is justified remains a clouded issue," Woodford stated in the memo.

With the cancellation of the M-275 freeway, the director wrote, "The basis for state trunkline service must be justified based upon area service and the attraction of the west Oakland area to the statewide network. That such justification exists is not clear."

Woodford added that "some limited state trunkline service along the existing arterial network may be warranted, given the significant number of state trunkline trips generated within the area, particularly for that portion of the area lying below south

of M-59 and within the southeast portion of the area under consideration." However, the director stated that state trunkline service north of M-59 "cannot be justified."

In order for the Highway Commission to determine whether state trunkline service is warranted between I-96 and M-59, Woodford said two questions must be answered.

"Do the benefits of such an improvement outweigh the social, economic and environmental costs caused by the construction of such a facility to state standards?" and

"Assuming that the benefits outweigh the costs, what priority basis would construction of such a route have in comparison to other improvements needed for the existing state trunkline network?"

Asked for a reaction to Woodford's report, Vivian said that the department director "seemed to be saying that the commission could go either way on this."

He's not saying a state trunkline is justified, and he's not saying it isn't justified."

Vivian had asked for Woodford's opinion on whether there was a need for some sort of thoroughfare in west Oakland and the report, the commis-

sioner said, only answers his question "in the sense that he provided us with a report he said he was preparing."

Charles P. Kochanski, spokesman for the M-275 Road Crisis Committee, learned of Woodford's memo last week and discussed the report with Highway Commission Chairman Peter B. Fletcher.

Fletcher later said that if the commission concludes that a state trunkline is not justified, the department has explored the possibility of acting as a broker to assist the Oakland County Road Commission in obtaining federal funds for road improvements.

The commission chairman said that possibility has been "discussed right along as an alternative."

He said the department has not recommended that approach, but is preparing for that contingency.

Fletcher added that he cannot predict when the commission will decide whether a state trunkline is justified.

In September, the commission said it recognized the "general community agreement that traffic problems do exist in the area and the commission acknowledges that it has a role in solving these problems through federal and state funding."

# Guest Columnist

## On chutzpah and pesharah

By MINITZ SCHRAMM

Who can translate Yiddish words or expressions? I'm always stymied when someone unfamiliar with a certain saying asks me what it means.

"Uh," I begin intelligently. "It's like this word, except that it has a little of this other word."

Chutzpah, for example, is a little nerve, except that it also implies gall, and that it's funny to look back on, and that it's not pleasant at the moment. So I am forced to give examples of the word in order to illustrate what I mean.

Perhaps that's where Jewish anecdotes originated—in the attempt to translate the untranslatable.

Chutzpah is one of my students copying someone else's paper, turning it in as his own, and then discovering

that another student had copied one of his papers and turned it in. Confronted with the evidence, he had the chutzpah to argue that the other guy, not he, was the plagiarist.

MY HUSBAND, a linguist, once received a phone call from a person asking for the definition of a schlemiel. "Uh," muttered my husband intelligently. He floundered in a sea of explanations for a few minutes, then turned to me, the English major, for help. "Tell him the old Jewish story of Bonche Schweig," I said. "The one about the dead-mate who worked all his life without complaint, who was always honest and always trusted in God. When he died, the Recording Angel, astonished at his goodness, asked him to name anything in the world and he would have it as his reward."

"Could I possibly have," Bonche asked hesitantly, "a hot buttered roll every morning?" After repeating the story to the person on the phone, my husband groaned silently. He turned

toward me and raised his eyebrows in agony.

"If he still doesn't understand what a schlemiel is," I whispered to my husband, "tell him to look in the mirror."

(Note: a schlemiel asking for the definition of a schlemiel has chutzpah.)

ON A NUMBER of occasions recently I have used and then been at a loss to explain the meaning of the word pesharah. "It's a compromise," I start, "except it also implies an agreement, since neither side really gives in. It's my father and I heading for a fight, glaring at each other to see who will break first, and then bursting into laughter simultaneously, avoiding the oncoming battle without loss of face."

After this personal example, I suddenly realized that we now have an international example to explain pesharah. It's Anwar Sadat telling Walter Cronkite that he would even go to Jerusalem if it would bring peace.

# Some are blue over board's policy

By JACKIE KLEIN

Despite last week's unprecedented move by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield board to open corporate meetings to the public, two citizens' groups are still singing the "Blues."

The Southfield-based Michigan Citizens Lobby (MCL) and the Detroit-based Citizens for Better Care, insist the public and press should be allowed to observe all meetings of the policymaking board.

Also disappointed in the action is Chuck Chomet, a member of the board who was ousted for his outspoken opinions against Blue policies and later reinstated.

"It's a meaningless gesture to open corporate sessions when they in no way represent the Blues board as a decision-making group," Chomet said. "I voted for the move, but I still think it's merely a public relations device."

"I suggested opening committee

meetings, but no decision was reached. Public corporate meetings like the one in April are an inch forward instead of a mile forward in allowing persons to observe the operations of the board."

THE TWO citizens' groups waited in the Blues Building in downtown Detroit March 2 for the board's decision on the organizations' request to be admitted to the board meeting. The groups were unsuccessful.

Board meetings are limited to members and the staff necessary for support," said James Woodruff, chairman of the Blues board. "Board minutes aren't made public, but there's a news conference the day after the meeting."

Woodruff said he lacked authority to overturn the policy. He also indicated to the citizens' groups it would be impossible to discuss their request to

attend the March 2 meeting on such short notice.

"We're aware that it's been the practice of the Blues board to deny public access to its meetings and minutes," said Joseph Tuchinsky, co-director of MCL. "But we are asking that the board review and change that practice."

"Clearly, the board's practice is inconsistent with the semi-public nature of the Blues as a non-profit, tax-exempt public service corporation created under a special act of the Michigan legislature."

Tuchinsky and Susan A. Rourke, executive director of the Detroit citizens' groups, said they weren't satisfied with "publicity hand-outs" by the Blues board during press conferences. The board, however, claims news conferences include "appropriate communication of minority opinions."

THE BOARD met March 2, according to Tuchinsky, to discuss excluding

thousands of senior citizens from Medicare supplemental coverage; filing for a new rate increase; converting itself to a "profit-seeking mutual insurance company, and imposing a "gag rule" on its own members.

"These are matters that affect all of us as subscribers and members of the public," said Mr. Rourke. "We have a legitimate interest in observing the meetings of those who set such policies."

The citizens' groups asked the board to vote to allow a small delegation of interested persons to observe at the meeting. They requested the board make an exception to the general policy if members lacked the time to vote on opening meetings to the public.

Woodruff, however, said one of the board policies is prompt communication to subscribers and health care providers of any important matters affecting them.

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# Summer science program offered

An April 1 application deadline has been set for high school juniors wishing to take part in the 10th annual Summer Science Institute. The science program, offered by Lawrence Institute of Technology (LIT) in Southfield, is limited to 60 students and is scheduled for six weeks, June 19 through July 28.

Students accepted into the program enroll free of charge.

Applications and additional information is available from high school counselors and the offices of LIT President Richard Marburger or Zaven Margosian, dean of the LIT School of Arts and Science.

Applicants who have been accepted for the program will be notified by May 1.

"We find the summer science institute an excellent way to help high school students explore potential careers in science and engineering," Marburger said. "In addition, they are exposed to college-level research and study skills."

Student participants will explore

chemical kinetics, chemical physics, X-ray diffraction analysis, radiochemical nuclear physics, computer techniques and graphic analysis. They also will receive an overview of calculus and elementary numerical methods.

They will be able to use the LIT digital computer and field trips are planned. In addition, corporate executives, researchers and engineers will visit the campus to address the classes.

Eligible to apply are high school juniors who have maintained a "B" grade point average or better and who have been recommended by their counselor or principal and science teacher.

There is a non-refundable \$25 registration fee payable on student acceptance. All text materials are provided and classes are taught by fulltime LIT faculty members.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an optional study hall available 3-4 p.m. at which faculty members will be available to work individually with students.

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