

Telegraph tangle aggravates

By JOE MARTUCCI

Telegraph Road drivers found the route more challenging than usual this week.

The latest reconstruction aggravation on Telegraph is a left turn for north and southbound traffic between Twelve Mile and Maple.

Those with destinations east or west of Telegraph have two choices: Seek an alternate route or continue to Maple to make a right or left turn and head south.

Frank Simmons, an administrative assistant with the state Department of Highways and Transportation, advised motorists to seek alternate routes.

He admitted that the left turn ban, which will be in force until next summer, is "less than ideal." Simmons added, however, that the alternative would be much worse.

Traffic was to be shifted this week to four newly paved lanes between Twelve Mile and Maple that will eventually serve only northbound traffic.

Until "old" Telegraph is torn up and new southbound lanes are built, the northbound lanes will carry both north and southbound traffic.

With only four lanes available to carry all traffic—two for northbound and two for southbound—the highway department decided it couldn't afford to set aside one of those lanes for left turns.

The only other alternative would be to block north or southbound traffic down to one lane and that would cause massive traffic jams," said Simmons. "It would cause even greater problems. We would have an instant parking lot."

Previously, left turns were allowed at Thirteen and Fourteen mile roads, providing east-west routes to Franklin, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham.

The left turn ban will be lifted, Simmons said, when the old roadway is removed and new lanes are paved. This won't be completed until next summer, according to the highway

department's work schedule.

Completion of the entire Telegraph reconstruction project isn't expected until 1980 or 1981. Preliminary work began in late 1976 and since then police have noted increased traffic on other roads, such as Franklin Road and Lahser, apparently caused by motorists avoiding construction tie-ups.

The massive road widening project is divided into four separate construction zones. The nine-mile-long road segment between Twelve Mile Road in Pontiac and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington is being replaced.

There will be four north and four southbound lanes from Twelve to Twelve-and-One-Half Mile and from Square Lake to Orchard Lake.

Between Twelve-and-One-Half Mile and Thirteen Mile, there will be four north and three southbound lanes. Most of the road, between Thirteen Mile and Square Lake Road, will consist of three lanes in each direction.

Intersections at Twelve Mile, Maple and Long Lake roads had been improved before reconstruction began. Total project cost is an estimated \$17 million.

Sievert earns Texas degree

William G. Sievert, 28741 Kendallwood, Farmington Hills, received an MBA from the University of Texas recently.

Sievert was among 127 students who received the advanced degree during spring commencement.



Mellis assumes reins

Charles Mellis will become the fourth director of Missionary Internship, an evangelical service agency in Farmington. Mellis and wife Claire have been associated with overseas missions for 32 years. He has published a book on mission structures and served as assistant editor of a journal and directed many similar organizations. Missionary Internship is geared to training of missionaries to live and work abroad.

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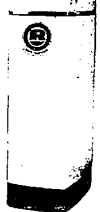
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