

Long traffic jams on I-75 at the Zilwaukee drawbridge are scheduled to become a thing of the past in four years.

Bids in for new Zilwaukee span

Bids for construction of a new high-level bridge to replace the drawbridge that has long been a bottleneck on the I-75 freeway at Zilwaukee were accepted last week in Lansing.

The 1.5-mile-long bridge, estimated to cost \$88 million, will carry I-75 over the Saginaw River. It will be the costliest and, next to the I-75 bridge over the Rouge River in Detroit, the longest bridge ever built by the Department of State Highways and Transportation.

Plans call for ground-breaking in mid-December, with completion targeted for December 1982. The project will be funded 90 per cent by the Federal Highway Administration and 10 per cent by the state.

In a rare procedure, bids will be accepted on two different types of construction. One group of bids will be for construction of a steel and concrete

structure; the other for a pre-cast segmental concrete bridge.

Thirty-seven companies from 13 states, Canada and the Netherlands are potential bidders, having obtained contract specifications from the department. It is expected that the number of actual bidders will be considerably smaller.

Once the bids are opened and evaluated, the department will recommend which of the two alternatives should be accepted. The recommended bid must be approved by the State Highway Commission and State Administrative Board before a contract is awarded.

The existing bridge, completed in 1961, is a bascule-type structure which must be opened when ships approach. When raised, the bridge becomes the only official stopping point on nearly

1,000 miles of I-75 between Sault Ste. Marie and Florida.

Opening of the bridge has caused long backups on the busy freeway, especially during summer or holiday weekends. It has been condemned by Michigan governors, rained by ships and cursed by thousands of motorists.

The new high-level span, which will have a clearance of 135 feet at its midpoint over the river, will be located 400 feet northeasterly (downstream) from the existing structure. It will provide four lanes in each direction.

Milliken OKs aid for parks

Gov. William Milliken recently signed the first phase of an urban recreation program into law. About \$3 million is earmarked for recreation projects in Wayne and Oakland counties.

The first phase of the program, which was first proposed in Milliken's State of the State message in January, provides \$13 million for projects in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula.

The largest of the local appropriations is a \$1.2 million grant to Oakland County to help finance purchase of Glen Oaks Golf Course, formerly owned by the Moslem Temple.

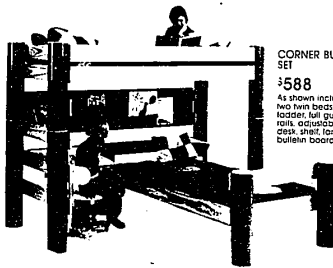
More than \$1 million was allocated to finance the further development of five state lands in Oakland County—Highland State Recreation Area, Holly State Recreation Area, Island Lake State Recreation Area, Proud Lake Recreation Area and Seven Lakes State Park.

Wayne County was not ignored in the package. More than \$15,000 was allocated for improvements to Maybury State Park in Northville Township. Another \$350,000 was earmarked for the continuation and completion of bicycle paths in Edward Hines Park.

Another \$1.75 million was allocated for improvements in the State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

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Crime lab specialists transferred to new lab

Two local state police science specialists have been transferred from their Oakland and Wayne County laboratories.

Specialist Sergeants James S. Berglund, 31, of the Madison Heights lab, and Michael D. Nowak, 36, of the

Northville lab joined the newly-established Grayling lab this month.

Berglund's specialty is firearms, toolmarks and explosives, and Nowak is assigned to latent print work.

The state police have not yet filled the vacant positions in the Madison Heights and Northville labs.

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