

Pernick fears M-275 will drain inner suburbs

Oakland County Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, a Southfield Democrat, chided some south Oakland officials this week for their silence on the controversial question of whether the state should build the M-275 expressway in

northwest Oakland County.

Pernick said some local officials who privately oppose construction of the new freeway are reluctant to publicly criticize the project for fear of jeopardizing construction of the I-696 free-

way through Southfield linking St. Clair Shores on the east to Novi on the west.

"If M-275 is approved we are saying we're ready to throw out the old areas, such as Southfield, in favor of the new," Pernick said.

Pernick said that Southfield and other communities in south Oakland County would be adversely affected by persons leaving this area and heading to new development in Livingston

County, Commerce Township White Lake Township and Milford, areas which would be more accessible with the construction of M-275.

Schools, businesses and residences in Southfield would decline, Pernick said, if the outer ring of suburban sprawl continues northward.

"So goes Detroit, so goes Southfield," Pernick said. He said a new road expanding the outer ring of the metropolitan area makes no sense "especially when there is no population growth to justify that kind of expansion."

"The slums of tomorrow will be created by the actions of government officials with no foresight," Pernick said. "Everyone's living for today and not worrying about what government policies will mean tomorrow."

Commuters would reach Flint only 10 minutes quicker if M-275 were built, Pernick said.

Pernick added that he isn't sure the 26-year-old I-696 freeway, which reaches I-75 at its western edge, is needed either.

BUT A TOP county official, Deputy County Executive William M. Spinelli of Orchard Lake, said both freeways are needed to serve the residents who already live in south and north Oakland County.

He disagrees with Pernick's contention that M-275 will promote "urban sprawl," saying that while development may occur around the freeway interchanges "it's the proliferation of secondary roads that promotes strip office and industrial development."

Spinelli said that many south Oakland officials may be mum on the M-275 issue because they realize north Oakland residents need traffic relief as badly as south Oakland residents need relief through I-696.

Franklin Council opposes freeway

The Franklin Village Council is unanimously opposed to any extension of the Northwestern Freeway beyond its present end point at Orchard Lake Road.

Council members Monday considered a lengthy study of M-275 alternatives and their impact on Franklin Village before passing a resolution opposing any extension of the roadway.

The resolution stating the Franklin position was to be submitted to the Michigan State Transportation Commission before its scheduled meeting Wednesday where M-275 alternate plans were to be discussed.

"It is our position that present traffic congestion should be alleviated through improvements to the existing I-696 freeway and north-south roads such as Haggerty Road, Farmington Road, Orchard Lake Road, etc.," the resolution says.

The council also asked that the transportation commission cancel the pro-

posed extension of the Northwestern Freeway.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL impact study of the proposed Twelve Mile Road-Northwestern interchange is asked in the resolution.

"This project is a 'major' project using federal funds," the resolution states, and requires an environmental impact study.

The council also asked that "any additional improvements to the Northwestern corridor on which federal funds are used to be considered in their entirety so as to subject them to the Federal Environmental Impact Study requirement rather than avoiding this requirement by the present piecemeal approach."

The council resolution also contained three other requests:

- That state and federal agencies compare impacts of all M-275 alter-

nate plans on the Northwestern corridor.

- That any proposed use of the Northwestern corridor in M-275 alternate plans be clearly shown on reference maps.

- That it be formally notified of any proposed improvements to Northwestern Highway so that it can consider their impact on the village.

Councilman Peter Bertelson noted that "the village unfortunately did not endorse an extension 11 years ago to promote the enhancement of Northwestern Highway."

"Regrettably, we did a dumb thing," he added.

However, in 1978 the Franklin Village Council passed a resolution repealing the action taken in 1968.

Ms. Gold named to committee

Ms. Claudia Gold of Farmington Hills has been named by Gov. William Milliken to the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice.

The committee will advise the governor, the Office of Criminal Justice and the Commission on Criminal Justice on matters concerning juvenile justice in the state.

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