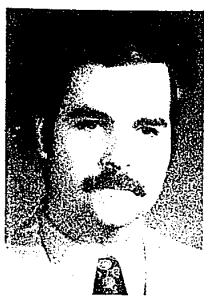


# 'Officially uncommitted'

## 'Modified' M-275 finds a fan

By TOM LONERGAN



RODGER YOUNG  
'Something is needed'

The Michigan Transportation Commission may not be ready to decide later this month if M-275 will be built, but the member from Oakland County has virtually made up his mind.

While he's "officially uncommitted," Commissioner Rodger Young of Rochester says, "I have a pretty good idea of where I want to go."

And Young's comments in a phone interview last week indicate a strong leaning toward approving the "modified" M-275 through western Oakland County.

The nearly \$100 million six-lane freeway would connect I-96/I-696 near Novi with I-75. Combined with I-275 in western Wayne County, it would create a giant bypass around Detroit from Monroe to Clarkston.

"I THINK it's clear something is

needed in west Oakland County," said Young, an attorney with a Southfield law firm.

"The modified freeway has a great deal to commend it. I don't find any of the (other four) alternatives capable of solving our problems. I can't go much further than that."

"I want to work more and talk more with other members of the commission on the question."

YOUNG IS one of three new members on the six-man state transportation commission, which will decide M-275's fate before the end of the year. While M-275 hasn't been placed on the group's Oct. 24 meeting agenda, commissioners "may discuss how they want to handle it," said commission secretary James Grazman.

The commission will also meet Nov. 28. Both meetings are in Lansing. The old state Highway Commission,

which cancelled M-275 twice, was replaced by the transportation commission after voters approved a constitutional amendment last fall.

Three former highway commission members, two of whom voted to cancel M-275 in January 1977, are on the transportation commission.

LAST MONTH in Pontiac, freeway supporters and opponents spent 6 1/2 hours during a public hearing trying to impress commissioners on the virtues and hazards of M-275.

Freeway supporters were led by Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy, who, Young said, "put forth the need very, very articulately. His comments weigh very heavy with me."

Young admits the main blockade for freeway supporters may again be the U.S. Department of Interior, whose adverse environmental impact statement led to the original M-275's cancellation almost three years ago.

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