

Westland Center Traffic Woes To Continue

WESTLAND Shopping Center patrons may have to struggle through another Christmas season traffic jam next year before Warren Road is widened to five lanes.

This was the indication given by Wayne County Road Commission officials after a meeting Wednesday with three Westland city officials.

But Mayor Gene McKinney, in reporting on the joint meeting during his weekly press conference Thursday afternoon, said that another session may be held with the full three-member

road commission in an effort to get Warren placed on the 1970 schedule.

MEETING with road commission staff members William Maczara and Oscar Gundersen was McKinney, City Engineer John Cain, and Public Services Director William Engle.

McKinney termed last week's meeting with the county officials as "disgusting, disappointing and discouraging."

The county told the Westland officials that "there will be no work on Warren Road in 1970 and we don't know when it will be scheduled."

The city officials were told that Warren Road widening was originally planned in the 1970 budget but was later deleted for a lack of money.

The new mayor said that he wasn't sure how to get the county road commission to improve and widen its roads in Westland but said he planned to "bug 'em to death and pester 'em until action is taken."

Scheduled for this week is a meeting with Wayne County Supervisor Edmund Block (D-Romulus), whose district includes the southern portion of Westland.

McKinney said the city will work with Block and then approach the full road commission "to get the work done."

THE MAYOR is not happy with road improvements which end at Westland's boundaries. Examples are Cherry Hill, now five lanes through Dearborn Heights and Ecker, and Ann Arbor Trail, which will be a three-lane road through Dearborn Heights and ending at Inster Road, the boundary of Westland.

The mayor also urged the county to recognize the problem of a two-lane road serving a regional shopping center (Westland Center), which draws shoppers from many neighboring communities.

County officials last week admitted that the Warren-Morriman intersection "is a bad situation," although McKinney pointed out during the press conference that the county designed that corner in the first place.

Other road plans revealed by the county:

WAYNE from Palmer to Marquette will be widened from four to five lanes in next year although no formal agreement has been submitted to the city.

MERRIMAN as it cuts through Westland will have the county help the city buy right-of-way. No construction is scheduled.

Same Tax Form For Everyone

DETROIT The 77 million people expected to file federal income tax returns for 1969 will all use the new style 1040 form, unveiled today by the Internal Revenue Service. The new tax form has been designed so that, regardless of financial circumstances, it can be used by taxpayers in any bracket.

Card Form 1040A--the old short form, filed by 18 million taxpayers last year--has been eliminated. However, the new form will enable over 30 million taxpayers to file by using only one side of a single page, the IRS said. An additional 20 million taxpayers will need no more than one-page basic form plus one additional page.

Taxpayers with special tax situations need only add to the basic form additional pages or schedules to meet their needs. Itemized deductions, business income and expense, and other add-or-subtract items will be reported on separate pages.

THE IRS said the card Form 1040A was becoming obsolete because of rising income levels in recent years and increased complexity in the financial status of taxpayers. This resulted in a decrease in the percentage of taxpayers using the card form.

Introduced in 1954, the 1040A was designed as a simplified form to help the lower-income wage earner. However, taxpayers using it could not take advantage of certain tax credits or exclusions and could not itemize their deductions.

The simplicity of the old 1040A has been built into the new form, the IRS said. The one-page basic 1040 is very much like the front and back of the discontinued card form.

The new 1040 enables all taxpayers to tailor their returns to their particular circumstances. Also the "add-a-page" feature provided by the new form has made it possible to provide more room for itemized deductions and listing income sources.

THE IRS said extensive research was conducted before the new form was adopted. This also included informal tests with taxpayers and discussions with legal and accounting groups.

Commonwealth To Pay Extra Dividend

The board of the Bank of the Commonwealth has declared a 30 cents per share extra dividend to shareholders of record Dec. 26, payable on Jan. 2.

The extra, when combined with the regular \$2 annual dividend, brings total dividends to \$2.30 per share in 1969 payments.

Total 1969 dividends paid will aggregate \$7,006,381, as compared with \$4,732,343 in 1968.

Directors further announced that they will recommend to the shareholders at the bank's annual meeting on April 20 the adoption of a 3-for-2 split of common shares and, further, the adoption of a resolution permitting the bank to offer approximately \$25,000,000 of units containing subordinated debentures with common stock warrants attached. Both of the foregoing capital actions will be subject to approval of regulatory authorities.

The board also announced its intention to continue the regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share on the increased number of shares outstanding after the effective date of the stock split, subject to the bank's earnings, financial conditions and other factors.

the business beat



A. ROBERT SELLEN of 36720 Sherwood, Livonia, has been promoted to assistant manager of operations at the National Bank of Detroit. Sellen, who has been with the bank since 1957, earlier this year received an advanced certificate from the American Institute of Banking.

Demand Rising For 'Know-How'

Young people who feel that the "know-how" of college or the "know-why" of politics isn't exactly their bag should take a new look at the increasing demand for know-how.

In our college-oriented society, we are severely neglecting to train much-needed technicians. Technical manpower shortages are acute, and from all indications, the shortage will become worse over the next decade unless corrective steps are taken immediately.

ACCORDING to Finance Facts, a monthly newsletter on consumer behavior published by the National Consumer Finance Association, current estimates show that 560,000 technicians will be needed between 1968-1975. Currently, one out of every three technicians' jobs is vacant.

Technicians are defined as a diverse group which "usually support scientists and engineers in designing, developing, producing and maintaining machines and materials." The publication also predicts the need for technicians to rise 75%.

Easier Money Predicted

An easing of the current tight money market and a decline in interest rates in 1970 is predicted by John H. French Jr., president of City National Bank of Detroit.

French says: "Commercial lending should loosen first, probably by mid-1970. Personal lending, on the other hand, will stay tight a little longer due to higher handling cost and higher losses."

"Mortgage financing has been sharply curtailed and it is doubtful that this situation will be relieved in the months ahead."

French said that student loans would continue to be a problem unless pending legislation removes the current interest ceiling of 7%.

French commented on increased lending programs to black businesses, saying: "We plan to do even more in 1970 to give blacks their deserved opportunity to share in the ownership and management aspects of our economy."

He then announced City National's plans for a new \$500,000 branch bank at Woodward and Alexandrina in the inner city. French's prediction of easing tight money and lower interest rates was based on three factors: bank deposits increasing with loan demand leveling, stabilization of federal controls, and a decrease in the rate banks must pay to borrow money.

Why Small Business Has Financial Woes

ANN ARBOR The second report in a three-part study on "Financial Laws and Their Effect Upon the Economic Expansion of Michigan" has been published by the Bureau of Business Research in the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration.

The report, "Financing Michigan's Small Business," was written by Sidney L. Jones, U-M professor of finance who is now on leave to work with President Nixon's Council of Economic Advisers.

THE JONES report demonstrates that the vast majority of industrial enterprise is accessible to small firms, and that these firms commonly experience great hardship in obtaining needed capital.

In Michigan, this problem is said to be especially relevant because of the state's difficulty in attracting major corporations established in other states.

Michigan, as a result, must encourage the expansion of in-state firms--most of which are small--and the creation of new firms to increase industrial growth.

Research and development firms, the seeds of industrial growth, are relatively scarce in Michigan.

Despite the evidence of economic history indicating that production follows upon technological innovation, the type of business which advances such innovation has had the greatest difficulty obtaining financing within Michigan.

Further, the report analyzes the comparatively poor performance of Michigan Small Business Investment Compa-

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