

LEFT: Temporary roads will be constructed on Orchard Lake Road south of Maple in West Bloomfield so traffic may continue while the road is widened. ABOVE: A truck drops a load of dirt to prepare the temporary road. BELOW: It's the "sign" of the times on Orchard Lake Road where reconstruction to widen the road continues until Becember.

Relief

Age-old Orchard Lake roadway headache attacked

Maple is being broken and temporary roads are being built.

"Instead of just waiting until all the bypass (temporary) roads are completed, we're breaking and pouring — so it should be quicker," Pajot said. The contractor, Tony Angelo Cement Construction Co. of Southfield, suggested the breaking and pouring method, Pajot added. "We impressed the need for the project to get done as quickly as possible."

ORIGINALLY, TRAFFIC was supposed to continue on the existing two lanes until early August while all the temporary roads were built.

Traffic will be diverted to these temporary roads until early December. The five lanes for all three miles should be completed and open to traffic before stopping work for the winter.

"We have every reason to believe that it will be completed," Pajot said. "December is our target date so we can get the traffic on the main (five-land) read.

lane) road.
"We don't want people riding on the bypass roads

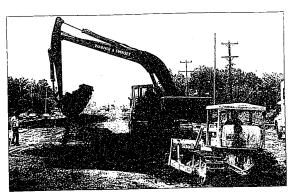
and Yuan't want people riding on the bypass roads when he snow comes."
Federal funding for this three-mile stretch exists, when the snow to other parts to Orchard Lake Road which are part of the overall widening project.
One two-lane stretch of road considered for widening is from Grand River north to 12 Mile through Farmington and Farmington Hills.
The other two-lane stretch is from Maple north to Will-O-Way in West Bloomfeld.
Pajot said widening these two stretches won't come this year, but he hopes federal funds are generated in the future.
"Both are going to be done — it's just a matter of time." Pajot said.

THE CURRENT three-mile reconstruction costs nearly \$8 million. Funds from the Federal Highway Administration cover 76 percent or slightly more than \$6 million of the project. Oakland County Road Commission's share is \$906.000 or 12 percent of the project.

Farmington Hills pays \$466,000 (8 percent) and West Bloomfield pays \$333,000 (4 percent) of the costs.

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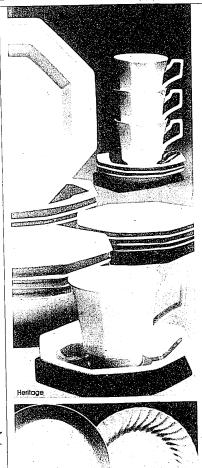
The entire project is scheduled to be completed by mid-July next year. Construction crews will re-turn in the spring of 1981 and convert the tempo-rary roads into bicycle paths and finish landscaping work.



ABOVE: A backhoo ABOVE: A backhoe digs up dirt in preparation for pouring cement for five lanes between 12 and 13 Mile later this month. RIGHT: Traffic remains congested on Orchard Lake Road, as these cars travel southbound to 12 Mile on a 'temporary road while construction "continues in Farming."



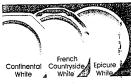




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