

Budget set at \$8.7 million

Road construction is trimmed by county

A public hearing on the Oakland County Road Commission's \$35.2 million budget for next year will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Waterford Township Hall.

The hall is at 5200 Civic Center Drive, off Crescent Lake Road, a half-mile north of M-59.

A separate construction budget of \$2.7 million is also proposed for 1981. This year's construction budget was \$10.4 million.

The proposed road operating budget is less than 1 percent higher than this

year's, although spending is expected to increase 7 percent. Purchase of \$90,000 of new road equipment will be delayed to balance the budget, said road commission Managing Director John Grubba.

THE ROAD commission's major revenue source — state collected gas — line and weight taxes — are estimated at \$20.2 million next year, down 11 percent, Grubba said.

Another \$10.5 million of the proposed road budget is from federal aid

and the state trunkline maintenance fund. The remaining \$4.2 million of the budget is from local governments, fees and other revenues. A surplus of \$315,000 is expected to be carried over from this year's budget.

Grubba said road grading and pothole patching will continue next year at current levels, but local road paving and resurfacing will be cut.

An additional attorney will be hired to handle increasing liability claims and lawsuits. The road commission, which employs 538 people, cut 10 positions this year through attrition.

ON THE construction end, five projects will eat up nearly 83 percent of the proposed \$8.7 million budget.

Construction will total \$2 million of state gas and weight tax money, compared with \$4.7 million this year and \$5.2 million in 1979.

Major projects which will begin next year include:

- Expanding Big Beaver Road, from west of Coolidge to east of Livernois, and a shorter section west of Dequindre, to a four-lane boulevard. Federal funds will provide \$2.8 million and the road commission \$943,000.

- Preliminary engineering for four-lane boulevarding of Big Beaver from east of Livernois to west of Dequindre with \$232,000 in federal funds, \$39,000 in road commission funds and \$39,000 local funding.
- Land purchases and some reconstruction to widen 10 Mile Road between Telegraph and Northwestern in Southfield. Federal funding is \$776,000; road commission, \$130,000 and city of Southfield, \$130,000.
- Widening 12 Mile Road between John R and I-75 in Madison Heights to five lanes. Of the \$240,000 estimated cost, federal aid will provide \$180,000, the road commission \$30,000 and the city \$30,000.
- Land purchasing for Orchard Lake Road widening between Grand River and I-696. The estimated \$800,000 cost includes \$600,000 of federal funds.

Free shots for tots

The Oakland County Health Division's free immunization clinic will be in Farmington from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday in Shiawassee School, 30415 Shiawassee Road.

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A parent or guardian must accompany a child under 18.

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