

State and city officials to redesign roadway

Continued from Page 1A

warning signal to drivers heading west on Grand River.

However, citizen suggestions to redesign the curve at the end of the access road to point drivers in a westerly direction are not contained in the project plans.

Deel Strakovits, field operations engineer for the MDOT, said "the project is progressing now" and predicted that it would be completed before fall of this year.

Officials in the MDOT and Farmington Hills Department of Public Works say the road would've been redesigned without pressure from Mason and the local newspaper.

"We sat down six months ago with the highway department and discussed a number of alternatives," said Tom

Blasell, director of public works for Farmington Hills.

Strakovits said Mason and the newspaper shouldn't take credit for the road improvement because "the city has been working toward this end for some time. The project is nothing new."

ALTHOUGH MANY of the proposed changes in the roadway are identical to solutions proposed months ago by Mason, MDOT officials say they were already working on remedies when he contacted the Southfield office of MDOT.

Mason says the design as proposed "sounds good" and he doesn't care who takes credit for improving road safety as long as it gets done.

"Once you get publicity and make officials aware that people are concerned

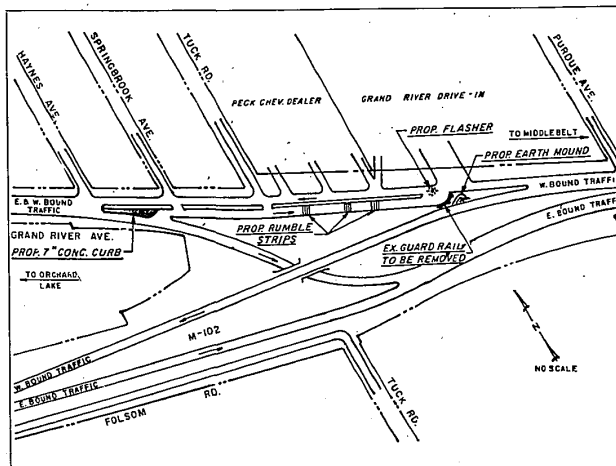
about a problem and have pointed it out to them, they know the blame may fall on the city if somebody hurts themselves and something gets done," Mason said. "I always figured if somebody gets badly hurt they'd do something."

Luckily, according to local officials, no one has been killed at the site.

City council members unanimously agreed Monday to pay 12.5 percent of the estimated \$27,000 cost for renovations at the site.

Exact figures will be known sometime in the summer when bids are in and a contractor is awarded the contract for the project, said Strakovits.

But at 12.5 percent of an estimated \$27,000 project, Farmington Hills' share of the cost would be \$3,500.



Proposed plans for the dangerous intersection of Grand River and M-102 call for the installation of a concrete curb to discourage drivers from heading straight and slamming into the dead-end access road in front of the drive-in. Other safety features are eyed in the project which officials say should be done by fall.

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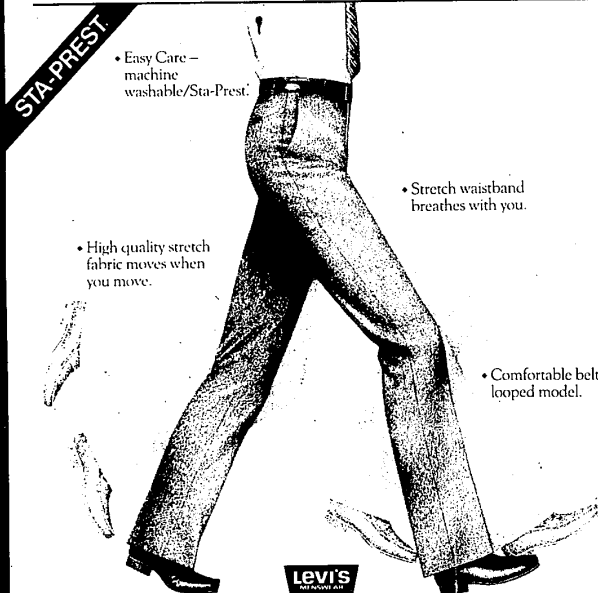
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