

# Oakland road budget: few projects but no more job, pay, fringe cuts

The three-member Oakland County Road Commission adopted the \$31.4 million 1983 budget recommended earlier by Managing Director John L. Grubbs — a budget with no further drastic cuts but not much new, either.

"We would like to be able to program some of the projects suggested at our public hearing," said Chairman Richard V. Vogt, "but we just don't have sufficient funds."

The \$31.4 million of anticipated revenue will be barely sufficient to provide basic services.

"We're fortunate to not have to cut back jobs, wages, salaries, fringe benefits and equipment renewals in 1983 as we have in the past few years."

from local governments and \$2 million to be earned in fees, interest and miscellaneous revenues.

OUTSTANDING expenditures are scheduled at \$25 million. These include \$11.8 million for maintenance, \$4.1 million for traffic safety and \$2.4 million for engineering.

The operating budget appropriates \$4.3 million for construction, including the \$592,000 of state gasoline-revenue and federal and local funds designated for construction.

Another \$11.9 million of revenues not in the operating budget bring the construction program to \$17.2 million.

NOTABLY ABSENT from the construction program are intersection improvements, pavings of gravel roads and bituminous overlay resurfacings which were major features until 1980.

The Road Commission also accepted the 1983 insurance program requiring \$33,000 in insurance premiums — \$30,000 below 1982 premiums for comparable coverages.

Of that, \$38,000 of premium costs are for liability coverage in excess of the Road Commission's own self-insurance program.

## County to coordinate 'soup kitchen' efforts

The Oakland County Emergency Operating Center has been established as the coordinating agency for "soup kitchen" food distribution in the county.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said the center will also act as a referral agency for persons needing food and for persons wishing to donate food. The number for both is 858-5301.

"We are acting in response to the governor's request to treat the present economic situation as a potential emergency," said Murphy. "At the present time, our principal effort will be on identifying the number of persons needing food and the number and location of private and public agencies

which are now providing food.

"With this information, we will be better able to decide whether the emergency food distribution system is working adequately. If we find distribution problems, we will work to correct them."

No additional county funds will be spent on the project, said Murphy. "We'll just work a little harder, and we'll use volunteers as much as possible."

"One thing everyone can do right now is carefully search the cupboards for canned goods and other items which can be donated to those in need," he said.

## SEMTA won't cut its services

The SEMTA board has set aside the proposed service-reduction plan scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

SEMTA, which serves the suburbs around Detroit, will continue operating all its bus and train services, according to a board resolution.

The board also instructed staff to prepare a service plan and revised operating budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year for later board action, said general manager Gary Krause.

proved two weeks ago will go into effect Jan. 1.

The board was able to take this action because SEMTA's operating funds were clarified last week when the Michigan Court of Appeals handed down a favorable decision regarding the challenged taxes (\$10 million), which had been held in an escrowed account, and the Michigan Legislature approved the state transportation package.

Monday night's vote for a federal gasoline tax increase by the U.S. Senate appears to clear SEMTA's last hurdle for now, said Krause.

Fare increases that the board ap-

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