

Compromise saves M-275

SEMCOG committee approves its construction

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

White Lake Township in northern Oakland County has written three master plans based on a freeway running through it.

So Supervisor Jim Reid was more than a bit nervous Friday when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) started debating whether to expand the long-proposed M-275 freeway.

"They wanted to cut me out of the sewer, too," objected Reid, who said his community's future bargaining power depends on its getting a highway.

"I just want the same opportunities the rest of you have."

BUT REID'S worries — and those of other local officials counting on freeway expansions along M-275, M-59 and M-53 — were allayed by a compromise by SEMCOG's executive committee.

Instead of basing plans on just existing or "committed" transportation facilities, the regional planning agency will also consider "planned" expressways and light rail lines, too.

"Symbolically, we're saying we want our region to have facilities that are best for both the central city and the suburbs. They're not in conflict," said Donald Shelton, SEMCOG chairman and mayor of Saline. "If we allow issues like this to pit the suburbs against the central city the whole region will suffer."

As the official seven-county planning agency, SEMCOG must recommend a program before federal officials will fund it.

M-275 has been on the Michigan Department of Transportation's drawing boards more than 20 years. In 1978 the then Highway Commission ordered it canceled, but western Oakland officials have worked continually to revive it.

Gov. James J. Blanchard last week ordered M-DOT to prepare a new list of freeways to be built, warning, however, that his administration is cool to new freeway construction.

MEETING AT the Dearborn Inn, the SEMCOG executive committee debated a proposal by SEMCOG's staff and Council on Regional Development (CORD) to base its small area forecast only on a "committed transportation" network.

Included were existing and already approved transportation facilities such as the completion of I-96 freeway across southern Oakland County and SEMTA's Woodward Light Rail Line from downtown Detroit to 11 Mile.

But it would have eliminated M-275, a bypass freeway running from the end of the existing I-275 in Novi to I-75 at Clarkston.

Also presented was an "expanded" network recommended by SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Committee. Along with existing roads, it included possible extensions of M-275 between I-275 and I-75, M-59 in Macomb County and M-53 (Van Dyke) from

"We're not going to Oakland and Addison townships and dragging people out there. We're trying to put the facilities where the people are."

—Daniel Murphy
Oakland County executive

Eight Mile to the north Macomb County line. Also possible are a Gratiot light rail line from downtown Detroit to M-59 and Woodward light rail extension from 11 Mile to the Silverdome.

ASKING THE executive committee — composed entirely of local elected officials — to take a stand, SEMCOG Executive Director John M. Amberger said there has been a "great deal of controversy and a number of assumptions" about the way to go.

"We (staff) can live with any of the options presented. But we can't live with the weakening of the agency and divisiveness," said Amberger, who also presented two compromise plans.

"Our staff has done its job. Now it's up to you. I wish you well for all of our good."

OBJECTING TO the narrower plan, Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy rebutted charges that freeway expansions would draw residents away from urban areas. And he stressed that there are well-populated areas in Oakland County which lack adequate roads.

"If all those people are out there — and moved out there without roads — where is the urban sprawl?" Murphy asked.

"We're not going to Oakland and Addison townships and dragging people out there. We're trying to put the facilities where the people are."

Also opposed to dropping the expansion plans was Rosina Raymond, trustee at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"It seems simple enough to me," said Raymond. "You've got to put the roads where the people are."

ENDORISING the SEMCOG staff recommendation was the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC), which has long opposed M-275 and extension of Northwestern Highway.

An attorney for the Troy-based group asked that the three "fringe area" highway projects (M-275, M-53 and M-59) be deleted from future plans.

"They would contribute to urban sprawl and endanger wetlands and farmlands," explained Elizabeth Harris, adding that they also would encourage the shift of suburban development away from established areas.

Robert Boatman, regional planning administrator

for M-DOT, suggested it will make little difference which plan is adopted because there is already so much development along the routes of M-59 and M-275.

"There's enough need in that area to justify new facilities," said Boatman.

BY UNANIMOUS vote, the executive committee agreed to adopt the "committed" network for development of its small area forecast update. It will also use the expanded network for transportation planning work.

A transportation plan update is to be in by June 1985, with a small area forecast three months later.

Executive director Amberger said he was surprised at the unanimous vote. But he applauded the committee on making a tough decision.

"They said, 'We think M-275 is necessary, but we will scrupulously test the necessity of it. We'll build it if there's a need,'" said Amberger.

"This decision called for a lot of judgment, and it's up to the elected officials to make those judgments."

Rich Furs
Since 1923
1313 Third Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
The Largest Selection of Furs in Michigan
We have a variety of furs to suit your taste and budget.
Call for a free catalog.

Open Houses
Boyer Falls Log Home
Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.
Feb. 4, March 3, April 14, May 12
U.S. 2310 Exit 55 (4 miles S. of 196) Turn West and look for signs.
CAROL MOCK
Boyer 8760 Tamarack, Dept. E
Falls Brighton, MI 48116
313/231-1051
Send for Free Brochure or send \$5.00 for Portfolio

Michael Landon Says
"Get Big Savings with this Super 1/2 Off Deal."

1/2 OFF Developing 135 and 160
Now \$4.95 Reg. Only \$3.95
With second film only \$3.00
Daily from 10am-6pm
FOX PHOTO

KODAK FILM SALE
HUGE SAVINGS!
Sale ends 2/4/84

NEW! Also available in 135 and 160
Kodak Color Print 100
Kodak Color Print 200
Kodak Color Print 400
Kodak Color Print 800
Kodak Color Print 1600
Kodak Color Print 3200
Kodak Color Print 6400
Kodak Color Print 12800
Kodak Color Print 25600
Kodak Color Print 51200
Kodak Color Print 102400
Kodak Color Print 204800
Kodak Color Print 409600
Kodak Color Print 819200
Kodak Color Print 1638400
Kodak Color Print 3276800
Kodak Color Print 6553600
Kodak Color Print 13107200
Kodak Color Print 26214400
Kodak Color Print 52428800
Kodak Color Print 104857600
Kodak Color Print 209715200
Kodak Color Print 419430400
Kodak Color Print 838860800
Kodak Color Print 1677721600
Kodak Color Print 3355443200
Kodak Color Print 6710886400
Kodak Color Print 13421772800
Kodak Color Print 26843545600
Kodak Color Print 53687091200
Kodak Color Print 107374182400
Kodak Color Print 214748364800
Kodak Color Print 429496729600
Kodak Color Print 858993459200
Kodak Color Print 1717986918400
Kodak Color Print 3435973836800
Kodak Color Print 6871947673600
Kodak Color Print 13743895347200
Kodak Color Print 27487790694400
Kodak Color Print 54975581388800
Kodak Color Print 109951162777600
Kodak Color Print 219902325555200
Kodak Color Print 439804651110400
Kodak Color Print 879609302220800
Kodak Color Print 1759218604441600
Kodak Color Print 3518437208883200
Kodak Color Print 7036874417766400
Kodak Color Print 14073748835532800
Kodak Color Print 28147497671065600
Kodak Color Print 56294995342131200
Kodak Color Print 112589990684262400
Kodak Color Print 225179981368524800
Kodak Color Print 450359962737049600
Kodak Color Print 900719925474099200
Kodak Color Print 1801439850948198400
Kodak Color Print 3602879701896396800
Kodak Color Print 7205759403792793600
Kodak Color Print 14411518807585587200
Kodak Color Print 28823037615171174400
Kodak Color Print 57646075230342348800
Kodak Color Print 115292150460684697600
Kodak Color Print 230584300921369395200
Kodak Color Print 461168601842738790400
Kodak Color Print 922337203685477580800
Kodak Color Print 1844674407370955161600
Kodak Color Print 3689348814741910323200
Kodak Color Print 7378697629483820646400
Kodak Color Print 14757395258967641292800
Kodak Color Print 29514790517935282585600
Kodak Color Print 59029581035870565171200
Kodak Color Print 118059162071741130342400
Kodak Color Print 236118324143482260684800
Kodak Color Print 472236648286964521369600
Kodak Color Print 944473296573929042739200
Kodak Color Print 1888946593147858085478400
Kodak Color Print 3777893186295716170956800
Kodak Color Print 7555786372591432341913600
Kodak Color Print 15111572745182864683827200
Kodak Color Print 30223145490365729367654400
Kodak Color Print 60446290980731458735308800
Kodak Color Print 120892581961462917470617600
Kodak Color Print 241785163922925834941235200
Kodak Color Print 483570327845851669882470400
Kodak Color Print 967140655691703339764940800
Kodak Color Print 1934281311383406679289881600
Kodak Color Print 3868562622766813358579763200
Kodak Color Print 7737125245533626717159526400
Kodak Color Print 1547425049106725343431052800
Kodak Color Print 3094850098213450686862105600
Kodak Color Print 6189700196426901373724211200
Kodak Color Print 1237940039285380274744822400
Kodak Color Print 2475880078570760549489644800
Kodak Color Print 4951760157141521098979289600
Kodak Color Print 9903520314283042197958579200
Kodak Color Print 19807040628566084395917158400
Kodak Color Print 39614081257132168791834316800
Kodak Color Print 79228162514264337583668633600
Kodak Color Print 158456325028528675167337267200
Kodak Color Print 316912650057057350334674534400
Kodak Color Print 633825300114114700669349068800
Kodak Color Print 1267650600228229401338878137600
Kodak Color Print 2535301200456458802677756275200
Kodak Color Print 5070602400912917605355512550400
Kodak Color Print 10141204801825835210711025100800
Kodak Color Print 20282409603651670421422050201600
Kodak Color Print 40564819207303340842844100403200
Kodak Color Print 81129638414606681685688200806400
Kodak Color Print 1622592768292133637137764161212800
Kodak Color Print 3245185536584267274275528322425600
Kodak Color Print 6490371073168534548551056644851200
Kodak Color Print 1298074214633706909710113289702400
Kodak Color Print 2596148429267413819420226579404800
Kodak Color Print 5192296858534827638840453158809600
Kodak Color Print 10384593717069655277680906317779200
Kodak Color Print 20769187434139310555361812635558400
Kodak Color Print 41538374868278621110723625271116800
Kodak Color Print 83076749736557242221447250542233600
Kodak Color Print 16615349947311448444288950108467200
Kodak Color Print 33230699894622896888578100216934400
Kodak Color Print 66461399789245793777156200433868800
Kodak Color Print 132922799578491587554312400867737600
Kodak Color Print 26584559915698317510862480173544800
Kodak Color Print 53169119831396635021724960347089600
Kodak Color Print 106338239626793270043449920694179200
Kodak Color Print 212676479253586540086899841388358400
Kodak Color Print 425352958507173080173799682776716800
Kodak Color Print 850705917014346160347599365553433600
Kodak Color Print 1701411834028692320751918731106867200
Kodak Color Print 3402823668057384641503837462213734400
Kodak Color Print 6805647336114769283007674924427468800
Kodak Color Print 13611294672229538566015349848854937600
Kodak Color Print 27222589344459077132030699697709875200
Kodak Color Print 54445178688918154264061391395419750400
Kodak Color Print 108890357377836308528122782790839500800
Kodak Color Print 217780714755672617056245565581679001600
Kodak Color Print 435561429511345234112491131163358003200
Kodak Color Print 871122859022690468224982262326716006400
Kodak Color Print 174224571844538093644976452465432012800
Kodak Color Print 348449143689076187289952904930864025600
Kodak Color Print 696898287378152374579905809861728051200
Kodak Color Print 1393796574756304749159811199723456102400
Kodak Color Print 278759314951260949831962239944691204800
Kodak Color Print 557518629902521899663924479889382409600
Kodak Color Print 1115037259805043799327848959778764819200
Kodak Color Print 2230074519610087598655697919557529638400
Kodak Color Print 446014903922017519731139583911155937600
Kodak Color Print 892029807844035039462279167822311875200
Kodak Color Print 178405961568807007892458335764463750400
Kodak Color Print 35681192313761401578491667154887500800
Kodak Color Print 7136238462752280315698333429977501600
Kodak Color Print 14272476925504560631391666689955003200
Kodak Color Print 28544953851009121262783333799910006400
Kodak Color Print 57089907702018242525566667599820012800
Kodak Color Print 114179815404036485051133335199640025600
Kodak Color Print 228359630808072970102266670399280051200
Kodak Color Print 4567192616161459402045333407985600102400
Kodak Color Print 9134385232322918804090666815971200204800
Kodak Color Print 1826877046464583760818133373174400409600
Kodak Color Print 3653754092929167521636266746348800819200
Kodak Color Print 73075081858583350432725334926976001638400
Kodak Color Print 146150163717166700865450698533952003276800
Kodak Color Print 292300327434333401730901397067904006553600
Kodak Color Print 5846006548686668034618027941358080013107200
Kodak Color Print 11692013097373336069236054822716160026214400
Kodak Color Print 23384026194746672138472110645432320052428800
Kodak Color Print 467680523894933442769442212908646400104857600
Kodak Color Print 935361047789866885538884425817292800209715200
Kodak Color Print 187072209557973377107776885633555200419430400
Kodak Color Print 374144419115946754215553771267110400838860800
Kodak Color Print 7482888382318935084311075525342208001677721600
Kodak Color Print 14965776764637870168622151050684416003355443200
Kodak Color Print 2993155352927574033724430200136888864006710886400
Kodak Color Print 59863107058551480674488604002737777280013421772800
Kodak Color Print 1197262141171029613489777208005475554560026843545600
Kodak Color Print 2394524282342059226979544160010951109120053687091200
Kodak Color Print 478904856468411845395908832002190221822400107374182400
Kodak Color Print 95780971293682369079181766400438044364800214748364800
Kodak Color Print 191561942577364738158363532800876088729600429496729600
Kodak Color Print 3831238851547294763167270656001752177459200858993459200
Kodak Color Print 7662477703094589526334541312003504354896001717986918400
Kodak Color Print 15324954406189170552668082624007008709792003435973836800
Kodak Color Print 306499088123783411053371652480014017419584007036874417766400
Kodak Color Print 6129981762475668221067433049600280348391680014073748835532800
Kodak Color Print 12259963529311336442134660998400560696783360028147497671065600
Kodak Color Print 245199270586226728842693219968001121393566720056294995342131200
Kodak Color Print 490398541172453457685386439936002242787334400112589990684262400
Kodak Color Print 980797082344906915370772879872004485574668800225179981368524800
Kodak Color Print 19615941646898133074154575977440089711493776004503599627370956800
Kodak Color Print 39231883293796266148309151954880017942398755200900719925474099200
Kodak Color Print 78463766587592532296618303909760035884797504001801439850948198400
Kodak Color Print 156927533175185064593236607819520071769595008003602879701896396800
Kodak Color Print 313855066350370129186473215639040014353919001600722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 62771013270074025837294643127808002870783803200144568380640036461399789245793777156200
Kodak Color Print 1255420265401480516748988862556160057415676064007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 251084053080296103349797773112232001148313534400144568380640036461399789245793777156200
Kodak Color Print 5021681061605922066995955462246400229662708800289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 1004336212321184413399191092449280045932541760057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 20086724246423688267983821848960091865083520011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 40173448492847376535967643697920018373016640023130935040011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 80346896985694753071935287395840036746033280046261870080011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 160693793971389506143870574791680073492066560092523740160011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 32138758794277901228774114958336001469841331200185047480320011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 64277517588555802557548229916672002939682662400370094960640011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 128555031171111605115097658233344005879365324800740189921280011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 257110062342223210223195316466688001175873064896001480379842560011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 51422012468444642044639063293337600235774697792002960759685120011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 102844024936889284089278126586675200471549555424005921519370240011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 205688049873778568178556253173350400943099110880011843038740480011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 411376099747557136357112506346700800188619822176002368607748160011565467520057827337600289136688007311227707200722337940371321687918400
Kodak Color Print 82275219