

Tech Park road study OK'd

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By Tom Henderson
staff writer

The long, expensive process to rebuild the roads in and around the proposed Oakland Technological Park in Rochester Hills began Thursday night when the Oakland County Board of Commissioners tentatively voted to approve a grant of \$2.5 million for preliminary road engineering.

The grant was proposed by Commissioner Roy Rewold of Rochester and approved by a majority of commissioners. The proposal will be discussed at the meeting of the commission's finance committee Sept. 4 and

may be approved by the full commission as early as Sept. 11.

William Fogini, the deputy managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission, who has been appointed by his supervisor, John Grubba, to oversee road construction around and in the park, said that if the grant is approved — and it is considered a mere formality — bids will be let by the end of September and preliminary road construction should begin late next spring.

FOGINI STRESSED that the grant was for preliminary engineering — drawing up specifications, checking on right of ways and other site preparation.

Fogini said that actual road design — whether roads would be expanded to three, five or six lanes, for example — would come only after a lengthy public review process, which would involve public meetings of area citizens and approval of the municipalities involved.

Fogini said that the major construction would also require a funding source. "I don't know where the funding will come from to construct," he said Friday. "To my knowledge these funds haven't been identified yet. Until Wednesday, we didn't even have any source of funds for the preliminary engineering. That's when we got the call telling us

a proposal would be made (at the commission meeting Thursday)."

Fogini previously oversaw the construction of roads at General Motors' Lake Orion project.

He said preliminary engineering would begin with the roads leading into the park. Their widening and rebuilding will be known as Phase I of the total road project.

Fogini said those roads were: University from Opdyke to Squirrel; Squirrel from M-59 to Butler; Featherstone from Opdyke to Squirrel; Hamlin between Squirrel and East Hamlin. He said the project would also include a new bridge on Hamlin over the Clinton River.

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911 system wins county approval

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

A 911 emergency phone system should be a reality in Oakland County by mid-1988, with construction beginning next month, according to Paul Phelps, division manager of the county's emergency medical service and disaster control division.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the program at its meeting Thursday night.

According to Phelps, the system

will take between 18 months and two years to install countywide, at a cost of \$3.5 million.

He said the yearly cost of the system will be approximately \$1.1 million.

The cost of both installation and operation will be borne by phone users. According to Phelps, a surcharge of 16 cents a month for five years will be added to each bill once the system goes on line with the cost thereafter pegged at 11 cents a month.

"THE COUNTY and Michigan Bell have identified 32 separate steps that have to be completed before the system can be switched on," said Phelps. "But this eliminates 15 months of effort. I'm really excited."

He said computers must be bought and loaded, dispatchers hired and trained, a public information campaign carried out and equipment and electronics installed in 35 different answering centers, which will be manned by local communities.

The system will be for all fire, police and medical emergencies in the

county.

Phelps said that calls will automatically be routed to the correct dispatcher, depending on where the call originates. He said that as soon as the call is answered, the computer will display the caller's phone number and address before the caller even can begin giving the nature of the problem.

A 911 system was first proposed for the county in 1970, but a study said that advances in technology

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