

Road improvement plans unveiled

Booklet spells out roadway projects

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Don't be surprised by the bulldozers and cement trucks that are going to be seen all over Farmington Hills this year. 1987 is going to be the big year for major road improvements.

Just to let residents and merchants know what's in the air for roads this and subsequent years, city officials have had a booklet published. It was distributed Thursday at the State of the Cities breakfast at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America, city manager William Costick said.

Local road improvements — the majority financed through a \$7 million bond program approved by voters last year — will be documented, with the help of maps, in the booklet. Also to be addressed in the publication is a series of planned projects financed in cooperation with the Oakland County Road Commission and Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Though plans for I-696 and possible additional interchanges into Farmington Hills are still in planning stages, the city's booklet will provide a listing of the proposed improvements and estimated time schedule.

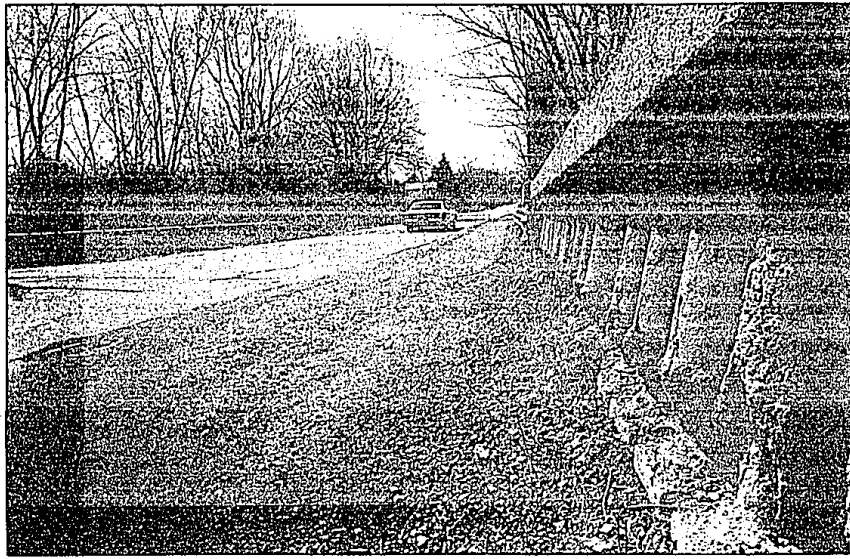
The booklet also provides a

glimpse of future road improvements, mostly in 1988-89.

BY THIS time next year, the bulk of the city's 34-road improvement program should be underway, if not completed. City officials are planning to complete the majority of the projects — about \$4.5 million of the total \$7 million. The three-year road program has a \$14 million price tag. But the city's share of the program will cost about \$9 million. That total will be paid for with the \$7 million in bonds approved by voters, revenue generated from a mill levied last July and \$750,000 in the city's major road fund.

City officials are planning that non-city costs will be paid for by the Oakland County Road Commission and other communities, such as West Bloomfield Township, Novi and Farmington, which share some of the roads. Highway grants also will be used.

The whole program is designed to relieve some of the traffic problems motorists have become all too familiar with in recent years. City officials don't plan to close any roads — other than 12 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt from about June to September — while improvements are made, Costick said.



The Pebble Creek bridge (above) at 12 Mile, west of Inkster, will be closed while it is replaced. The project — a joint effort involving Farmington Hills, Oakland County and the Oakland

County Road Commission — is expected to be done by September.

BY THIS time next year, many Farmington Hills roads that have helped prompt headaches for most motorists will have a different appearance and will relieve some of the congestion that has characterized the city's roadways.

Here's a list of road improvements motorists can look forward to in 1987:

- Widening 13 Mile, east and west of Northwestern Highway. A minimum of four lanes in both directions will be provided. Completion date: mid-summer.
- Paving 13 Mile, between Halsted and Haggerty. Curb and open-ditch drainage will be provided where necessary. Completion date: late fall.

- Widening 13 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road. The road will be widened to a minimum four lanes, from Ardmore west to Chesterbrook. A passing lane will be added at Chesterbrook. Completion date: late summer.

- Paving Drake, from 13 to 14 Mile. The gravel road will be paved to two lanes. This project is similar to the paving that was completed in 1986 on 13 Mile, between Drake and Halsted. Completion date: late fall.

- Widening of 14 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. The thoroughfare will be widened to provide a minimum of two lanes in each direction. A portion of the project will include widening to five lanes where left turns are fre-

quent. Completion date: The project is proposed for this summer and fall but could be postponed until 1988 depending on the availability of federal grant money and rights-of-way acquisition.

- Paving of Halsted, between 12 and 14 Mile. Two lanes will be paved and intersections widened at 12 Mile, 13 Mile and 14 Mile. Open-ditch drainage and some curbing will be included. Completion date: winter.

- Paving of Tuck, between Eight Mile and Folsom. Paving will provide a two-lane roadway. Completion date: fall.
- Traffic signals: at 9 Mile and Gill in early spring; 9 Mile and Drake in late 1987 and 13 Mile and Haggerty as part of the widening project.

- Safety improvements, such as passing lanes and left turn lanes, will be completed within the year at 11 locations throughout the city.

ALSO TARGETED for 1987 are a series of projects that will be financed through Oakland County's three-party road improvement program, as well as with the help of other communities and federal grants. The three-party program calls for shared financing between the city, Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Oakland County Road Commission.

The projects scheduled include:

- Replacing and widening the Pebble Creek bridge at 12 Mile, west of Inkster. The roadway will be closed while the bridge is replaced.

This is a three-party program project. Completion date: September.

- Widening the Haggerty and 9 Mile Intersection. The intersection will be widened to five lanes on Haggerty and four lanes on 9 Mile. The city of Novi also is helping to pay for this three-party project. Completion date: late fall.

- Widening 12 Mile, just west of Orchard Lake. A widening lane will be placed to allow traffic to enter the nearby shopping mall on the north side of 12 Mile without interfering with through traffic. Completion date: fall.

- Repaving the 13 Mile and Haggerty intersection. The project includes repaving and realignment of

the intersection and placement of a traffic signal. In addition to a federal grant, the project will be financed jointly by the cities of Farmington Hills and Novi.

- Resurfacing. The Oakland County Road Commission — with the help of bonds — will pay for resurfacing of major roads throughout the county. Local communities must provide matching funds.

In Farmington Hills, the proposed resurfacing projects include: 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Inkster; Middlebelt, between Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile; 10 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Inkster and Farmington and Power roads; Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MOVING UP

Jacqueline Primeau, Detroit Osteopathic Hospital Corp. finance director, has been chosen president-elect of the Healthcare Financial Management Association-Eastern Michigan Chapter.

Healthcare is a personal membership association with 26,000 members nationally; all are involved in healthcare financial management. As president, Primeau will help plan and manage the affairs of the Eastern Michigan Chapter. The Farmington Hills resident will seek to represent the members and meet their professional needs.

Before joining Detroit Osteopathic Hospital Corp., Primeau worked at the Detroit office of Arthur Young & Co. as a senior consultant. She spent four years with the Southfield CPA firm of Plante & Moran, during which time she was a consultant for DOHC.

CHANGING LOCATIONS

Usul International Corp., a subsidiary of Usul Kokusai Sangyo Kaisha Ltd., Japan, has located its Michigan office in the Arboretum, 1-696 and Drake, Farmington Hills.

Katy Miller of the Relocation Co., which managed the move, said the project also involved the relocation of the Mount Clemens offices of the Bundy-Usul International Corp., a joint venture formed in January 1985 between Bundy Corp. and Usul. Usul is a manufacturer of tubing and other parts for the automobile industry in Japan. It will support the activities of the joint venture in sales and technical services.

The Relocation Co., based in Farmington Hills, assists domestic

and foreign firms in locating offices throughout Metro Detroit.

JOINS STAFF

Janet Burt has joined the staff at Reliance Forms & Supplies Inc., Farmington Hills, as sales representative.

She was formerly a sales representative for Wilson Business Machines Inc., Farmington Hills.

HE'S PROMOTED

National Bank of Detroit has promoted Michael Wallad to commercial loan officer at its Center City Regional Banking Center in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Banking Division.

The Farmington Hills resident has been an NBD employee for 2 1/2 years.

NEW ASSOCIATE

Rosanne Achtenberg is the newest associate of the Patrick M. McDonald Agency, Plymouth. The Farmington resident is a district representative for the Aid Association for Lutherans.

Wisconsin-based AAL, the nation's largest fraternal benevolent society, provides 1.4 million members in 6,600 branches with fraternal benefits and, through affiliated companies, other financial services.

AAL members are offered volunteer opportunities to help others in their own communities.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Daniel Buggerud has been named an account executive on the WMJC-FM and WHND-AM sales staff.

The Farmington resident comes to WMJC and WHND from the Detroit subsidiary of Metro Traffic Control. He handled several positions during his three-year stay.

He also was an account executive for the Michigan Trade Exchange and J. Walter Thompson U.S.A. Inc.

NEW IN TOWN

Downing Street Fireplace & B.B.Q. Co., 20718 Middlebelt, is open for business.

The Farmington Hills fireplace shop specializes in chimney cleaning and repair, custom brick and stone masonry, custom glass enclosures and newborn baby announcements.

It also offers animal control and removal, wood stoves, furnaces,

barbecue sales and parts and stock rental.

Owner Steven Faulhaber is a Livonia resident.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call 476-3337.

SERVICE PROGRAMS

WJBK-TV2 called on Grace & Wild Studios of Farmington Hills to create computer-animated opens for "Us Viewing You" and "For Kids Sake," two new community service programs.

"We needed to create a visual continuity with these projects since they are closely related, so the same motif serves as a background for both logos," said Magda Saina, WJBK art director.

Saina and WJBK producer Jeff Forster worked with electronic graphics specialist Scott Wasmuth at Grace & Wild to create the opens. Each begins with a series of 3-D marble-like horizontal bars, moving from top to bottom into the center of the screen, forming a square. Each program title, followed by the WJBK logo, all in 3-D, then zoom into the frame. To finish off the open, thin horizontal lines, looking like lit sparklers, cross the screen behind each program title.

To achieve the animated sequence, each bar was created and rendered individually and assigned a unique, random motion on Grace & Wild's Symbolics graphics system. The paint function of the system was used to give each bar its dark blue, marbled texture.

NAMED OFFICER

Camerica Bank-Detroit, principal subsidiary of Comerica Inc., has appointed Michael Michon small business banking officer, metropolitan corporate banking department.

The Farmington Hills resident joined the bank in 1985 as a credit analyst. He previously was with Michigan National Bank as a senior credit analyst.

PLAN OFFICER

Comerica Inc. has appointed John Breshnahan corporate planning officer, corporate planning department.

The Farmington Hills resident joined the corporation in 1985 as a senior planning analyst. He was promoted to corporate planning manager in 1986.

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hudson's