

Final 12 Mile plan expected in 6 months

By Joanne Maliszewski
 staff writer

A final right-of-way plan for a proposed boulevard along 12 Mile is expected to be completed in booklet form within the next six months.

The next step will be to sit down with the county and get their stamp of approval for our plan," David J. Hill, Farmington Hills assistant city manager, said.

Oakland County officials have told city officials they have no immediate plans to improve the heavily congested 12 Mile office corridor in Farmington Hills. But city officials said they expect the county would, if financially able, expand 12 Mile to a five-lane roadway.

Generally, Oakland County, which has jurisdiction over 12 Mile, would complete a right-of-way plan for proposed improvements. With the county short of money, Economic Development Corporation members decided to keep things moving on the proposed improvements and do the plan themselves.

When the plan is complete, it will be forwarded to the Farmington Hills City Council for approval. The hope is that any future site plans for development along 12 Mile can include dedication of right-of-way to the city, based on the EDC plan, Call said.

The updated preliminary plan was presented at a joint study meeting Wednesday of the city council, planning commission, beautification commission and EDC.

CITY OFFICIALS and EDC members, who have sponsored the right-of-way plan, prefer a four-lane boulevard. The multicorridor right-of-way plan shows existing utility lines, property lines, existing and proposed rights-of-way, the existing road, historic homes and office buildings.

The boulevard plan is based on traffic studies conducted in 1984-85. Though traffic probably has increased since then, Call said a wider boulevard seems unwarranted.

"I think it would be ludicrous for us to come up with six lanes

(throughout the boulevard). It would blow up in our faces," Call said.

A widened 1-696 with additional interchanges, plus making Hagerty an improved state trunkline, are expected to ease traffic on 12 Mile, he added.

The proposed boulevard would have two 12-foot lanes in each direction and run from Hagerty to about 4-1/2-mile west of Farmington Road. Six lanes would be provided at the intersections for turns.

"We think it's better to go with a boulevard, which takes more right-of-way," Call said.

A boulevard was chosen because it's considered safer and provides better access for motorists coming out of the office buildings on the south side and neighborhoods on the north, he added.

Oakland County requires 120 feet of right-of-way — 60 feet on each side — for a five-lane road. The EDC's computerized plan by Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment Inc., Livonia, shows a total of 180 feet of

right-of-way, Call said.

THE PROPOSED right-of-way range from 90 feet on the north and south near Hagerty and 12 Mile to 60 on the north to 120 feet on the south near Drake and Farmington roads, Call said.

"We already indicated that no subdivision property would be involved (purchased). There is 60 feet already dedicated in the subdivision plan," Call said.

A preliminary plan of the proposed right-of-way needed and the boulevard were presented last week to about 40 property owners. The updated plan resulted from comments and concerns made by property owners.

In October, the EDC provided business owners with copies of a right-of-way plan and asked for comments. "We got 13 letters back and two-to-three verbal expressions," Call said.

In addition to maintaining the roadway edge where it is, property owners want the boulevard to avoid existing buildings, mature trees and parking lots. Property owners also asked that easy access be provided from the large offices to the boulevard's cross-overs, Call said.

To balance concerns, the EDC and city staff established some criteria for the boulevard. Existing structures will be avoided, as will parking lots and trees. A third criteria is to provide a safe roadway with a 52-foot median — the minimum width that allows for truck turns.

"WE TRIED to address the layout given the criteria. At the presentation Tuesday, we indicated where we couldn't address the comments," Call said.

As the study winds toward completion, "we told the committee (comprised of EDC members and property owners) we'd like to keep them involved all the way through," Call continued.

The final booklet is expected to contain scheduling, how right-of-way will be obtained and financing. When actual construction plans and

designs are needed, for example, surveys will be conducted for the hills and valleys along the roadway. Some of the right-of-way plan could be a little off because the plan is based on aerial photos, Call said.

"We have not gotten all our ideas together about financing," Call said.

In light of the state Legislature's passage of certain bills for road financing, including increases in vehicle registration fees, Oakland County is expected to receive additional money for roads.

"We're hopeful that given Oakland County's new money that the county will have matching funds," Call said.

The hope is to receive a Federal Aid Urban Systems matching grant to help construct the proposed boulevard. The grant would provide 75 percent financing while the county and city pay the remaining 25 percent of the costs.

"We haven't discussed with the county whether the funding is for a five-lane or a boulevard. We still have a lot of work to do relative to costs," Call said.

Novelist Estleman to visit Farmington book store

Loren D. Estleman, one of Michigan's hottest crime and western novelists, will autograph two new books at the Little Pi-ester Book Center of Farmington, 37115 Grand River at Halsted, 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday.

"Downriver" is the eighth full-length Amos Walker novel Estleman has written. His fictional, hard-boiled private eye continues fast-paced activities.

From the Upper Peninsula, where Walker picks up a client just

released from Marquette, to the murky of downriver, Walker searches for \$200,000 that put his client in jail after the 1957 riots.

"Bloody Season" is a fictional account of the legendary 1881 gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Ariz. The gunfight, Estleman writes, "was merely one skirmish in what some experts have termed the first true gang war in American history."

Estleman, the small-town boy from Whitmore Lake, near Ann Ar-



Loren D. Estleman to visit Farmington

Farmington-airport bus service starts

Bus service between downtown Farmington and Detroit Metropolitan Airport started Monday, the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) announced.

SEMTA general manager Albert Martin said the new service responds to public demand. Fare one way is \$1.

Approximately 9,000 airline support personnel work at Metropolitan Airport. In 1986, the most recent year for which figures are available, more than 8.9 million passengers boarded flights at the airport.

The new Route 285 will operate daily every hour. It will leave downtown Farmington from the intersection of Farmington Road and Grand River and arrive at the airport approximately 45 minutes later with intermediate stops.

Route 285 will travel along Grand River to Middlebelt Road to Smith Road, turn west on Smith Road to Merriman Road and then south on Merriman onto airport property.

At Metro, buses will make drop-offs and pickups at the airport employee shuttle stop near the international terminal before returning to Farmington.

The last trip of the day will leave Farmington at 8:07 p.m.

"SEMTA is hopeful the new service will help ease Metro Airport traffic congestion and frustration in addition to providing reliable and affordable transportation along the route," said Martin.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

● **AWARDED DEGREE**

Natalie Gelman Rice of Farmington Hills was awarded a doctoral degree by UECU, a national university offering degree programs for experienced adults.

Rice's doctoral studies were completed in the field of psychology. Her major work is titled, "Prime Time: The Experience of Women Who Perceive Themselves to be Entering Middle Age."

Before attending UECU, Rice graduated from Wayne State University, Merrill-Palmer Institute and the Center for Humanistic Studies.

● **SPRING INTERN**

Andrew Chuba of Farmington was chosen to spend the spring semester in an off-campus internship through the Philadelphia Center.

Chuba, a 1985 graduate of Farmington High School, is a junior at Albion College majoring in economics and management.

The off-campus programs are participated in by Albion College and the Great Lakes Colleges Association, a consortium of 12 liberal arts colleges in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois.

● **DEAN'S LIST**

David Wandel of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at the University of South Florida. He is a 1986 graduate of North Farmington High School.

Kristine Rogers of Farmington and Alice Jewell of Farmington Hills were named to the dean's list at Adrian College.

Tammy Spengler of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

SMILE Saturday and Evening Apts. 477-1500

Jeffrey L. Zanetti, D.D.S.
 Family Dentistry
 Now Accepting New Patients
 Children Welcome
 23133 Orchard Lake Road
 (Between Grand River & Ten Mile at Shilwassee)

SAVINGS EXPERT TAX PREPARATION

\$1500 OFF by retired Internal Revenue Agent with over 28 years experience as a field auditor.
 (New clients only)

Call between 9 a.m. & 9 p.m. MON.-SUN.
855-1656

SAVINGS

● O&E Sports—more than just the scores

Liveville Tax Service

348-3348
 2874 A Novi Rd.
 (at Grand River)

533-0121
 28201 Grand River
 (near Beech Daly)

Ron Paradowski joined our firm after receiving his degree in accounting from the University of Michigan. His abilities as a C.P.A. and his personal interest in your tax situation make him exceptionally qualified to prepare your income tax return.

INCOME TAX SERVICE

PEPSI SPECIALS

PEPSI \$1.99
 8 Pack + Tax + Dep. With Coupon Good thru 1-28-88

P.S.I. Pharmacy Services, Inc. Money Orders 0¢
 With Coupon Good thru 1-28-88

Hats & Gloves 50% OFF
 With Coupon Good thru 1-28-88

BASELINE DISCOUNT DRUGS 474-2700
 33479 8 Mile Rd., Livonia Al Farmington Road
 M-Th 9 a.m.-10 p.m. • Fri & Sat 9 a.m.-12 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Free Prescription Delivery

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.



DECORATING CAN BE EXCITING AND REWARDING (instead of dreadful)

Let us help you coordinate colors, patterns and styles for your next decorating project. We have a very complete selection of wallcoverings and window treatments. And, of course, our superior paints and stains come in every color under the sun! So don't put off that decorating job any longer. Help is available here at Andersons. Levolor

WE'RE MUCH MORE THAN A PAINT STORE!

ANDERSONS
 22554 Farmington Road at Nine Mile (313) 476-2926
 Crossroads Shopping Center
 Mon-Thurs 8:30-6:00, Fri 8:30-9:00, Sat 8:30-6:00
 In Ann Arbor: 125 W. William (313) 995-4411

START YOUR NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT BY SHOPPING AT LINCOLN CENTER

A & P SAV-A-CENTER
 BASKIN ROBBINS
 BOOK BEAT
 BREAD BASKET DELI
 CHECKER BAR-B-Q
 COATS UNLIMITED
 DETROIT EDISON
 KING LIM'S RESTAURANT
 LINCOLN BARBER SHOP
 MAGIC TOUCH BEAUTY SALON
 MARIANNE - PLUS
 METRO OPTICAL
 MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE
 MODERN BAKERY
 ONE HOUR MARTINIZING
 PERRY'S COMFORT CARE
 PERRY'S DRUGS
 PRINT HOUSE

RADIO SHACK
 RAVE
 RICHARD'S BOYS & GIRLS WEAR
 SHERMAN'S FOOT CARE CENTER
 SY DRAFT OFFICE SUPPLIES
 STRICTLY KOSHER MEAT CENTER
 WINKELMAN'S

Lincoln Center
 GREENFIELD AT 10%
 OAK PARK

NOVI'S PREMIER CONVEINENT SHOPPING CENTER
 Now Leasing

PINE RIDGE CENTER

Novi Road at 10 Mile
 Large Variety of Spaces Available
 Occupancy By January 15th
 Call **Kojaian Properties**
644-5530
 All Brokers Protected