

Road Commission backs \$25 vehicle fee

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The Oakland County Road Commission wants voters to support a \$25 motor vehicle registration fee to raise \$19 million in new revenue for county and municipal roads.

The plan is on the agenda of Wednesday's meeting of the transportation committee of the county Board of Commissioners.

"We want to begin a discussion with the county board on what they want to do," said John L. Grubba, road commission managing director. The County Board of Commissioners must put any proposal on the ballot.

"The resolution strongly en-

courages all communities and all citizens to support implementation of this fee to address Oakland County's road problems," Grubba said.

A NEW state law allows local units — such as counties — to ask voters to levy a \$25 vehicle registration fee. The three-man road panel last week endorsed the plan for Oakland.

Road commission spokesman

Dennis Pajot said the \$19 million in revenue would be broken into two parts: \$10 million for county roads and the rest for cities and villages' roads. (Under state law, townships have no jurisdiction over roads.)

The request is for 10 years.

"The reason is that we have been projecting our needs for 10 years," Pajot said.

"This is seen as one portion of the \$75 million annual in needs we have identified in our strategic plan."

Grubba surveyed every community in the county on economic development needs, and in 1986 he tallied the state needs at \$740 million over 10 years.

"THE MONEY is guaranteed to stay in Oakland County," Pajot said.

In fiscal 1987 the road commission spent \$44.7 million on county roads.

The current 1988 construction program is \$14 million. Thus, voter approval of the \$25 registration fee would add \$10 million to that pot.

The local option registration fee was one of 10 bills in the Michigan Legislature's 1987 transportation package piloted by Sen. Richard

Fessler, R-Commerce, and Rep. Curtis Hertel, D-Detroit, chairs of their respective transportation committees.

Two of those bills would have allowed local option fuel taxes and local developer impact fees. They were defeated.

clarification

Jean Fox of Farmington Hills may have been picked as a national candidate delegate by the downstaters (Robertson) rump convention of Michigan Republicans last weekend — but she didn't consent to it.

"I found my name on their list,

where I didn't want it to be," said Fox, a Kemp supporter who stayed upstairs in the Grand Rapids Grand Center, where party leaders conducted the official convention.

The downstaters convention was filled by Pat Robertson delegates and those supporters of Congressman Jack Kemp who declined to make peace with the forces of Vice President George Bush over party rules.

"So we are beginning a new discussion with the county board," Grubba said.

Some of those bills which became law will provide \$109 million in new state fees.

"THIS ISN'T the only route we're

going," Pajot said. He said the road commission is considering other options.

• Will continue to ask the Legislature to raise the fuel tax over three years by 6 cents, to 21 cents a gallon. (Many legislators are willing, but Gov. James J. Blanchard is strongly opposed.)

• Is asking the state to finance fully the "economic development fund" created in the transportation budget. That \$109 million fund is to help counties such as Oakland that have felt the effect of economic growth.

OCC dean named to state aid panel

An Oakland Community College administrator has been named by Gov. Blanchard to the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority.

John S. Sloan Jr., dean of student services at OCC's Auburn Hills campus, will become the group's community college representative. His term expires in three years.

Before rejoining OCC last July, Sloan, 37, was a dean at Mott Com-

munity College in Flint for three years. From 1979 to 1983, he was director of financial aid and veterans affairs at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

MHEAA was created in 1960 as a

policy-making body concerning financial aid for college students.

The Oak Park resident has earned

degrees in business and counseling

personnel from Western Michigan

University.



John S. Sloan Jr.
on state panel

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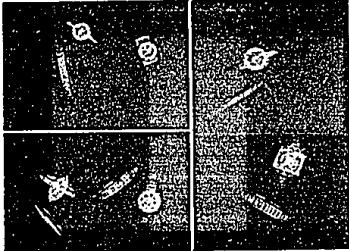


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