No action in Oakland road fund campaign

stan writer

Levelbody talks about the Oakland County roads, but hardly anyone seems to be promoting a Nov. 8
ballot Issue that could raise \$200

"We need something to sell it,"
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"Tutstee G. Kenneth Poye, referring
to data needed to persuade residents
to approve a \$25-per-vehicle tax.
But with 57 days remaining before
the election, there appears to be life"te under way to inform the public
about the loyear tax, say supporters
about the loyear tax, say supporters
and opponents alike.

THE FEE — 225 for each car, truck and motorcycle registered in the county — is a virtual linehpin in the County— is a virtual linehpin in the Oakland County Road Commission's plan to raise 3900 million over 10 years for highway maintenance, improvement and construction, according to Brent O. Bair, deputymanaging director of the road commission.

mission.

That's a higher estimate than the original 3740 million from the county for needed road improvements.

Adoption of the few would enhance the county's chance of getting more money from the state by demonstrating the willingness of local resistants of the county's chance of getting more money from the state by demonstrating the willingness of local resistants of the county of the cou

BUT OFFICIALS, including Poye, say there's an important difference between endorsing a tax measure and actively selling it to votes. "We need traffic counts and impact studies," Poye said. "We need to know how the money will be seent.

to know how the money will be spent.
"I don't know that this (the registration fee) is the answer to traffic congestion. We might be better off with a millage levy for road improvement. But this is a concrete proposal on the table, and I have no qualma shout informing people about it.
"But we need facts. If we wait

about it.
"But we need facts. If we wait
much longer to address our road
problems, it might not matter. We
will be so gridlocked by traffic that
we won't be able to move," Poye

The support is far from unani-mous among local elected officials.

BIRMINGHAM City Commissioner Gary W. Kain uses the word rerusade; in describing his strong opposition to the proposed registration fee.

"The fee would force people in exhibitshed communities like Birmingham and Southfield to belp pay for improvements in developing areas like Troy and Auburn Hills," said Kain.

Workshop aids offspring of alcoholics

Kain said he will give the fee sup-porters a chance to make their case.
"If they can show me that paying a \$25 registration fee would save me \$75 per year in car maintenance, I'd listen.
"But unless they (backers of the registration fee) show me something, I will remain strongly opposed to it."

I will remain strongly opposed to It."

ANOTHER POLITICALLY savey observer says Oakland County residents are willing to evaluate arguments on behalf of the tax. "But it's going down by at least 2-to-1," predicted William D. McMaster, a long-time resident of Bloomfield Hills and president of McMaster Communications Inc.
Residents already pay "the highest taxes in Michigan." McMaster aid. "Even so, they will listen (to logic) because they want an answer to traffice congestion.

"But this ain't the answer," he said. "And I think taxpayers are waiting for the chance to send a message to the Road Commission

He hopes to persuade the Birmingham council to come out against the proposal.

Kain said he knows revenue raised by the fee is scheduled to remain within each community, but he is still akeptical, if not supclous. "If we (Birmilgham) wanted to lingoes a \$25 per vehicle tax for road the provement, we would do it," said the former mayor.

Kain said he will give the fee supporters a chance to make their case. "If they can show me that paying a \$25 registration fee would save me \$25 registration fee sould be supported and vocal, judging by feed-size and the school of the supported said. "But Messes they (backers of the \$25 registration fee sould be supported and vocal, judging by feed-size feed to the supported said vocal, judging by feed-size feed to the supported said. "But Messes they (backers of the \$25 registration fee would save me \$25 registration fee supported said the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the commission cannot experient and the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the new year careful, said Bair, "because the commission cannot experient the information about the cepture for every careful," said Bair, "because the careful for every careful," said the information about the cepture for every careful, said the information about the continuous cannot experient to the careful for every careful, said the information about the continuous

NUMEROUS GROUPS, such as chambers of commerce, boards of real estate and several city councils — such as Troy — have endorsed the proposed fee, Bair said.

The road commission and others hope those endorsements translate into telephone banks, direct mailings

and other informational efforts needed to inform and sway voters.

"The best (informational) tool we could have would be signs," right at traffic bottlenecks, he said. For example, a sign at Square Lake Road and Woodward Avenue saying, in effect, "This intersection would be improved with money raised by pasage of the Vehicle Registration Fee," would get a pointed message across, Bair said.

But there is no real indication that such signs are forthcoming, Bair admitted.

spokesperson for the Keep Your Oakland County Roads Moving committee and treasurer of the North Oakland Board of Realtors.

"We need a massive education effort, particularly in the northern parts of the county where critical car owners are convinced the money would be used in the southern areas," she said. "But it's a big job."

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Two separate organizations have en organized to promote the registration fee — the "Community Alliance for Roads (GAR)" and "Keep Your Oakland County Roads Moving" committee.

So far, any efforts by them to inform voters on the registration fee, much less to persuade them to vote from the voltage of the three from the control of the registration fee, much less to persuade them to vote from the voltage of t

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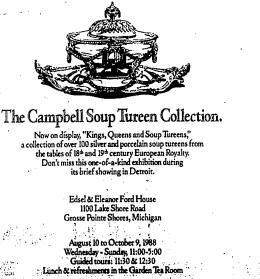
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