

# New gas tax plan called little help to Oakland

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

A proposed 3-cent-a-gallon fuel tax increase will do little to help Oakland County and city roads, said John Grubbs, managing director of the county road commission.

"The public will say, 'Well, the gas tax went up 3 cents, so all your problems are solved.' But it doesn't seem to be a very good package. If indeed it passes at all," Grubbs told the three-member board last week.

He quoted House Speaker Louis Dodak, D-Montrose, as saying the only legislation likely in 1989 is a 3-cent fuel tax with a penny "off the top" going for state trunklines.

Of the remaining 2 cents, 39.1 percent will go to counties, under the existing formula, giving Oakland only \$3.8 million, Grubbs said. The Road Commission maintains that to facilitate economic growth alone it needs \$90 million a year in new money.

THE STATE doesn't need a share, Grubbs maintains.

"The governor, said in his state of the state address that the state system is in the best shape ever. But the county and city systems are nowhere near it," he said.

Last year the state Legislature set up an economic growth fund under which Oakland roads picked up \$8 million. Grubbs says as much of any new tax as possible should go into

that economic fund to aid units which have witnessed the office and high-technology building boom of the last six years.

He added that the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce opposes the plan.

"A pitance is no good," agreed Richard V. Vogt, chairman of the panel. "That's not worth voting for."

BOARD MEMBER James E. Lanni asked the administration to draw up a plan that can be used for bonding purposes.

Under Lanni's idea, the road commission would contract with county general government for a period of years, using the county's pledged revenue to pay off road bonds.

The discussion occurred as the road panel approved a new phase of the so-called "tripartite plan" in which the road commission, a local unit of government and county general government each pay one-third of the cost of an improvement.

But Grubbs warned that tripartite agreements are useful for addressing "small maintenance-type problems" rather than major road improvement projects.

MEANWHILE, Gov. James J. Blanchard appeared to award a new fuel tax, although Speaker Dodak has said the governor would support it.

In a recent appearance in Troy, Blanchard recalled, "The gas tax

was raised (2 cents) in '83 to help accommodate road expansion.

"Because the expansion was a good news story — better than everyone anticipated — we raised a bunch of different fees to add several hundred million dollars to roads, and roads as they relate to economic development (a reference to the special fund created for areas experiencing growth).

"The good news," said Blanchard, is the economy continues to boom — in places like Oakland, way beyond the infrastructure capacity. We gave, as you know, authority to the counties to raise its own money (the \$25 vehicle registration fee). That failed (by 4-1 at the polls Nov. 8).

"Having failed, we're going to have to find ways to help. I'm not sure it's going to be a gas tax in the near future, but there's going to have to be some way to fund infrastructure improvements, not just to Oakland but all over the state, without destroying the other elements of the budget — crime control, drug education, K-12 schools, environmental control.

"I suspect within a year or two we're going to have a major solution."

A Troy official reminded Blanchard that the local chamber of commerce has identified road congestion as the city's No. 1 economic problem and asked for the governor's help.

## Fat-cancer link

### OU researchers seek preventive compounds

The same polyunsaturated fatty acids that are beneficial to the heart and cholesterol reduction have a down side. Some chemical compounds formed by these acids enhance colon cancer, an Oakland University biochemist reports.

Researcher Arthur Bull is studying how the colon responds when it is exposed to these compounds. He is looking at possible chemo-preventive agents that at-risk individuals might take to block these fatty acids from enhancing cancer.

Bull began this research at Wayne State University. He is continuing his work at OU and collaborating with colleagues in the medical school at WSU. He has received a \$100,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support his work.

"We established about 1979 that this dietary fat, which enhances colon cancer and several other cancers, acts during a secondary stage of the cancer process," Bull said.

THE RESEARCHER says this is a reversible part of the process and that it would be possible to intervene to reduce cancer incidence.

"So the grant is to help us find what chemical compounds are present in dietary fat that are responsible for it enhancing colon cancer."

"When these polyunsaturated fatty acids are exposed to air, they form chemical compounds spontane-

ously, and those compounds appear to be part of what causes dietary fat to enhance colon cancer.

"We have been able to show that these compounds formed from the fatty acids stimulate the colon to increase cell division, one of the processes in cancer development. So we are looking closely at the metabolism of these things," he said.

BULL'S RESEARCH also concerns "chemo-preventive agents" or compounds that people could take when they reach age 40 or so, if they have been identified by their physicians as being in a high risk category for developing colon cancer.

These compounds could be a dietary supplement or other form that would block the actions of these fatty acid compounds in the colon and reduce the risk of that form of cancer.

"It is fairly well known that if you can reduce the fat content of our diet from about 40 percent of our calories, which is about what the average person eats, to about 25 or 20 percent, you can probably reduce your cancer incidence of both breast and colon.

"But that is just about impossible to get people to do. So you really have to look at some other means."

WHAT CAN be done?

"We are looking at things like changing from a polyunsaturated to a monounsaturated so that people are still going to consume high levels of fat, but the particular fatty acids they get — in particular the chemical compounds formed from those fatty acids — are not as dangerous as they might be in another kind of fat."

Bull said polyunsaturated fatty acids come from corn and other vegetable oils.

But olive oil, rich in oleic acid, is an example of a monounsaturated fat. This fat doesn't hurt the heart and cholesterol, and it doesn't form the chemical compounds that enhance colon cancer either. These monounsaturated fatty acids appear to be the best of both worlds at this

time, Bull said.

BULL IS TAKING small pieces of rat colon and growing them in little petri dishes in which the colon pieces are exposed to purified individual components of fatty acids.

"If we find a component that stimulates the colon cells to divide, we can then work on a chemo-preventive agent that might block that action and reduce the incidence of cancer," he said.

He notes that currently there is an interest among epidemiologists in what is called the Mediterranean diet because people who live in that region eat a fair amount of oleic acid but don't seem to have the high incidence of colon cancer and breast cancer.

**UGLY KITCHEN CABINETS**  
DON'T REPLACE... 'REFACE'  
MODERN & EUROPEAN STYLES

FORMICA Solid Colors and Woodgrain  
GOLD WOODS Oak, Cherry and Birch

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND & MACOMB  
• FACTORY SHOWROOM  
• FREE ESTIMATES

1042 E. 11 Mile Rd., Madison Hgts.  
1 Block W. of Dequindre Daily 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Cabinet Clad... 5432

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Presents  
**BARRY LOUIS POLISAR**  
★ singer/storyteller, acclaimed children's author ★

One performance only at 1 p.m.,  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22,**  
In the  
Birmingham Theatre.

★ LIBRARY FUND-RAISER ★  
Individual tickets \$12  
at Library or Theatre.  
Group tickets \$10 each  
for 20 or more.

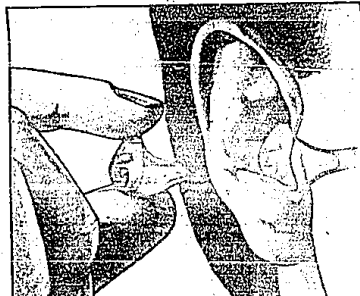
BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
300 W. Main St., Birmingham 36102  
Call (205) 770-0100 for additional information

"The PaineWebber Provider" features Capital Gains, a universal life insurance policy from First Capital Life Insurance Company. Not available in New York. Policy #1094.

\*Based on a 40-year old male, nonsmoker, making an annual premium payment of \$2,000 until age 65. Interest rate of 8.7% effective as of 3/27/89. Rates are subject to change without notice. Guaranteed minimum rate of 4%.

Save \$150 through April 8.

**Hearing Aid Sale, Only \$248**



This Natural Ear® Model 50R canal hearing aid is one of the smallest stock types available today. Price is for one ear. Reg. \$378, sale \$248. Servo \$150.

Talk to a factory expert during your appointment who'll answer your questions and concerns about hearing aids.

Certain Canal Model 312, reg. \$678, sale \$548.

Try one without risking one cent per our refund policy.

Call now price quote let-us 1-800-437-9555 to obtain our lowest prescription price. Hudson's is a B.A.N. and True Care-Care Child protection.

In Hudson's Hearing Aid Department. Call Monday through Saturday. Sale ends April 8.

Sunrise Place, Pontiac: 482-0640  
Oakland, Troy: 583-2075  
Southland, Taylor: 217-1566  
Westland: 425-0033  
Genesee Valley, Flint: 732-4621

HUDSON'S  
HEARING AIDS

### O&E Sports—more than just the scores

**ALLIPERT WEEK APRIL 1-9**

This week with the purchase of 3 or more pieces from the Diago Collection, take home a 4 1/2" Television

while supplies last

**ALLIBERT'S**

7350 Highland Rd. (N 59)  
Near Pontiac Airport  
7 Miles West of Telegraph  
666-2980

43236 Novi Town Center  
Grand River & Novi Rd.  
Just South of I-96  
347-4610

Mon, Thurs, Fri 10 am-6 pm, Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm

Natural Norwegian  
**Blue Fox Jackets.**  
as low as \$397  
(Through Saturday Only)  
Limited Quantities and Sizes

"The" Barrier for Honesty and Reliability

**Dittrich**  
Since 1939

Dittrich's Own Finishing Major Credit Card Accepted

Detroit 373-8200 • 3771 Third Avenue (West of Fisher Building)  
Bloomfield Hills 484-3000 (Hilltop) • Woodward Ave. (South of Long Lake Road)  
OPEN MON-SAT 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For product listed to show quality of work of Dittrich's.

Please, my little girl needs blood.

Introduce If you need to ask for blood to save the life of someone you love. Next time the American Red Cross asks, give blood, please.

CIVILIZED, PLEASE

**Aliens PRE-SALE**  
CHECK WITH SALESMEN FOR SALE PRICES

COME IN TODAY

Walk-Behind Mowers  
Yard Tractors  
Garden Tractors  
Riding Mowers  
Garden Tractors

"We Service What We Sell"

**MANUS POWER MOWERS**  
3110 N. WOODWARD — 2 BLKS. E. OF 13 MILE

41 YEARS SAME LOCATION

549-2440  
MON-FRI 9-5, SAT 9-2

FULL SERVICE DEPT. COMPLETE PARTS DEPT. FINANCING AVAILABLE