

# Plan to ease county traffic gets 2 green lights

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

As the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week was approving \$2.1 million for so-called "smart highways" in Troy, federal authorities in Washington were earmarking \$10 million to expand the system to other areas in south Oakland County areas hit by traffic congestion.

Both actions — related, yet separate — are intricate parts of a long-range proposal by the Road Commission of Oakland County to ease traffic congestion by computerizing the highways and, in theory, making them smarter.

For example, computers will relay where traffic is tied up, so that lights can be re-timed and more lanes opened up where they are needed.

Commissioners on the county board's general government com-

mittee approved the expenditure of nearly \$2.2 million for equipment and consulting fees to computerize 28 intersections in Troy on July 8.

"I really support this program," said commissioner Lillian Jaffe. "There are concerns about the effectiveness of the system, but I support anything we can do to ease congestion."

Commissioners approved expenditures for Phase I, explained John Joy, spokesman for the road com-

mission. Their approval is the final administrative step.

"WE WILL BEGIN installing equipment this fall," Joy said, "and the 28 intersections should be functional by mid 1992."

While computerizing 28 intersections in Troy is an important first step, it is merely the beginning, he emphasized.

The tentative approval of \$10 million by the Transportation Appropri-

ations Subcommittee, a U.S. House subcommittee, is a giant intermediate step.

That money — if finally approved in Congress as expected — will enable the road commission to put more smart highways in other parts of southern Oakland, Joy said.

Where and when that expansion occurs depends on a number of variables, he said, including data compiled by the pilot project in Troy.

"We will be easing traffic problems in that part of Troy," Joy said. "But in doing so, we might be creating problems elsewhere."

So before the road commission can say where additional smart highway components will be installed, it must study the results of the Troy experiment and submit the data to Federal Highway Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

according to Lawrence E. Littman, a Troy resident who is chairman of the road commission.

That willingness could eventually lead to as much as \$70 million in federal funds going toward easing congestion in Oakland.

As proposed in November, the road commission eventually hopes to computerize most of the major traffic arteries in Oakland at an expected cost of \$70-\$100 million.

Rather than constructing more and bigger highways, the road commission wants to ease congestion by computerizing the roads, making it possible for various control centers to move the flow of traffic.

Similar systems have worked well in cities like Berlin, Germany and Sydney, Australia. And officials are convinced they can work here.

Joy said implementation of the smart highways in Troy has been delayed because of the complexity involved. "We're doing something new and different," he said. "And timetables are necessarily flexible."

## Area students attend freedom school

Six area students recently attended the 8th Annual Michigan Freedom Academy, designed for 100 future leaders to learn more about freedom.

They are: Kathanne Anne Robbins, 16, West Bloomfield, a student at Walled Lake Central High School; Craig L. Ralsanan, 17, Bloomfield Hills, a student at Lahser High

School; James W. Hildebrand, 17, Rochester Hills, a student at Rochester High School; Micki Konarska, 17, West Bloomfield, a student at Andover High School; Steven Lemieux, 17, Farmington Hills, a student at Farmington High School; David Wagner, 17, Birmingham, a student at Scahool High School.

The academy, held the week of July 7-12, has four main objectives:

- further the desire to lead.
- enhance one's appreciation of freedom.
- create a better understanding of civic responsibility.
- Attendance is limited to high school students who have just completed their junior year, have at least a 3.0 grade point average, and are active in student leadership and extracurricular activities.

## OU center offers job counseling

The Oakland University Continuum Center offers private individual career counseling services by appointment during day and evening hours.

Continuum Center career counseling is a highly personalized experience of two to five, one-on-one sessions, depending upon individual needs. Sliding scale fees are based on family income. Master Card/VISA and personal checks are accepted.

Participants are led through an in-depth personal assessment and realistic goal-setting process by career specialists who are professionals with master's degrees and extensive experience.

The program includes individual inventories, computerized, career planning assessment; data on the Michigan labor market; optional coaching in job hunting skills, resume writing/critique, interviewing techniques and networking informa-

tion. Appointments may be made by phone, call (313) 370-3033. The Continuum Center is part of the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services and specializes in programs of personal enrichment and professional development. It is located on the Rochester campus.

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