

EPA's Haggerty conclusions draw mixed views

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Boundary of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.

West Bloomfield Township Supervisor Sandra Draur did not return phone calls to comment on the new development.

The project also would include a freeway-type intersection at 12 Mile, grade-level intersections at 13 Mile, 14 Mile and Maple roads and Pontiac Trail. Mile roads would also be widened to four or six lanes, and Pontiac Trail would be widened to five lanes.

Costick said the 12 Mile Inter-

change portion of the project "absolutely must go forward" for the future of his city. "The wetlands laws are far too strict," he added. "We've just gone too far with all this."

The EPA letter, released recently by the Bloomfield Township-based East Michigan Environmental Action Council, said the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement "does not completely provide for a full disclosure of the project's anticipated environmental impacts" and that the project would fill in at least 42 acres of wetlands — not the 24 acres noted in the FEIS. The EPA also said the issue of noise abatement for residential areas at the northern end of the project needs to be addressed.

EMEAC DIRECTOR Elizabeth Harris said it is "unlikely" the Federal Highway Administration and state transportation officials will move ahead with the project without EPA approval. "This is not the first time they've raised this issue," she said, about the environmental problems.

But this is the first time the EPA has responded, in writing, to the final impact report, which observers believe gives it greater impact.

The current project follows some 16 years of haggling over attempting to expand or put a new roadway in the Haggerty corridor area. In 1976,

the state rejected plans for an M-275 freeway there, calling the project a danger to fragile wetlands and the headwaters of the Huron and Clinton rivers.

Harris said the current plan is "the same project — now it's being called M-9." She said the more stringent EPA and other environmental regulations strengthen her group's position that such a road is not needed.

"I would think they're going to have to do better," she said of the current effort.

Lorna McEwen, representative of the Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield group which also opposes the connector project, said the EPA

"put their finger on the key elements" in their review.

"They (state officials) have not fully disclosed... anything. I think it's great they (the EPA) stood firm." Meanwhile, U.S. Congressman William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, a critic of the EPA's stand, could not be reached to comment on the recent situation. In a March 1990 letter, he and seven other congressmen blasted the EPA's interference in the project, saying they "intended to put a stop to it."

A spokeswoman in Broomfield's Washington office Thursday said the congressman could not come to the phone, and that no one else there knew anything about the project.

Chief calls task force best answer to carjacks

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The man who attempted to steal the Orchard Lake motorists' car Wednesday night is described as a black man, 5 feet, 11 inches tall, medium build and when last seen was wearing dark clothing, according to police.

Dwyer acknowledged that publicity about the armed robbery auto thefts is having a ripple effect with others copying the "carjack" crimes.

JIE SAID that while a task force — similar to the Detroit Police Department's STRESS team of the 1970s — would not be a panacea for a solution, it certainly could be effective.

Dwyer wants a task force comprised of officers from the suburban departments, Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police. Task force members

'This could be a major deterrent, if they (thieves) believe these kind of units are out there.'

— William Dwyer
Hills police chief.

would study crime patterns and analyze evidence to determine which areas might be targeted by the thieves.

Officers would work in plainclothes and a decoy program could be established. That would allow officers to pose as potential victims on the roadways.

"This could be a major deterrent, if they (thieves) believe these kind of units are out there," Dwyer said.

Write-in runs for Hills seat

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The Harrison High School graduate is unmarried and has been a Farmington Hills resident for 17½ years.

Raczowski will face six opponents in the race for four seats on the city council at the Nov. 5 election.

His opponents include incumbents Larry Lichtman, Nancy Bates and Terry Sever. Also throwing their hats in the political ring are planning commission chairwoman and former councilwoman Joanne Smith, former councilman Paul Sowerby and Ron Oliverio, a former unsuccessful council candidate in 1989.

The top three vote-getters in the election will earn four-year terms. The fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term. Voters will take office at the first council meeting after the Nov. 5 election.

Council members earn an annual \$1,800 and the mayor earns \$2,700.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910, Telephone 644-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(In Oakland County)
One year \$38.40
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Newsstand per copy, 50¢
One year \$55.00
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