

Critics say Senate bill will encourage urban sprawl

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The state Senate today is ready to pass a bill giving the Transportation Department more leeway to build new state trunklines.

It's a major defeat for cities and older suburbs who charge it subsidizes "urban sprawl."

The bill by Sen. Doug Carl, R-Macomb County, is a major victory for outer fringe suburbs and the Lake Michigan shoreline.

"It will skew public funding (to benefit) real estate developers and speculators," objected Sen. John Kelly, D-Grosse Pointe. "It's wrong. They (developers) should use their own dollars."

"Livingston County is under constant pressure to take on economic diversification," countered Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville. "Trouble is, we can't put in the infrastructure."

Carl's Senate Bill 803 would lift a 10-year restriction called the Padden amendment that requires the Transportation Commission to put 90 percent of its money in maintenance and 10 percent in new construction.

An amendment, proposed by Kelly, to gut the bill lost 8 to 22.

Supporting Carl were all area Republicans. Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, backed Kelly on the first roll call but joined the majority on the second.

Votes for Kelly's amendment came from Democrats and one out-

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state Republican, Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and William Faust of Westland missed the vote.

The bill Wednesday was advanced to a third and final reading. A final vote is expected today. It faces an uncertain future in the House.

Carl and Dillingham portrayed the bill as giving more flexibility to state highway decision makers. "It served in the House when the Padden amendment was adopted," said Dillingham. "I believe I may have supported it."

"But a good policy at times wears itself out. We've seen the policy (maintenance of existing roads to help save older cities) in action for 10 years. What has been the result? It hasn't worked."

Carl called the Padden amendment "anti-growth, anti-jobs, anti-safety, anti-suburbs and anti-out-state."

Carl said the new federal transportation law would pump \$400 million into Michigan roads — "a rising tide that raises all boats. This is not gonna jeopardize urban areas. They're going to get more money."

They were joined by two west shore senators who said the building of the US-131 freeway has dragged on for 17 years because the Padden amendment "handcuffed"

the Transportation Department.

"Unbelievable!" replied Kelly. "The infrastructure in this state has crumbled. I can point to 1,000 miles of roadway in metropolitan Detroit in need of repair."

"I've driven through that area (Carl's northwestern Macomb district). There are a whole host of roads and bridges that need repair."

"I share the concern," said Sen. Michael O'Brien, D-Detroit, a former Wayne County Road Commission staffer. "In five years on the Southfield freeway, we were into heavy repair. They (new freeways) were crumbling on the day they were opened."

Opponents of the bill were supported by a conservative Republican — Nick Smith of rural Jackson County.

"Contractors develop new shopping centers and subdivisions. Then they say 'Look at the congestion.' The state subsidizes these to the detriment of downtowns," said Smith.

"Then the utilities say 'We're going to charge additional rates to bring electricity.'"

Meanwhile, House Speaker Lewis Dodak, D-Birmingham, appointed a bipartisan committee of lawmakers and citizens to examine the effect of state environmental laws on urban sprawl.

Area members include Reps. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, and James Kosteva, D-Canton, and Elizabeth Harris of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Area teachers win dissertation award

Thirteen area teachers have combined their research efforts to win the 1991 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

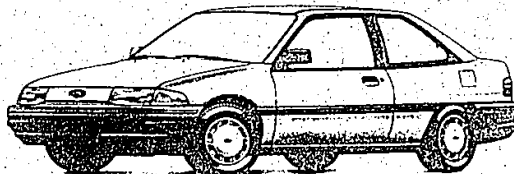
The teachers are enrolled in the Education Specialist program at Oakland University and worked as a team on "A Vision of A Preferred Curriculum for the 21st Century."

They are: Chris Albott, Waterford; Susan Curry, Bloomfield Hills; Ray Hart, White Lake; Rosalie Jordan, Mt. Clemens; Dinne McCord, Macomb Township; Louise Costlier, Rochester Hills; Frank Dagbavie, Bloomfield Hills; Jim Hunter, Bloomfield Hills; Sharon Karpinski, Bloomfield Hills; Carol Wilson, Rochester Hills; Sheryl Cox, Union Lake; Lascenia Jones, Southfield and Debbie Luczyn, Rochester.

The study focused on outcome-based curricula that combine individual subjects like math and English into interdisciplinary subject areas. Students are then asked to demonstrate in these areas before they graduate.

OU's winning team was named April 5 at the ASCD national conference in New Orleans, LA. The team was supervised by Beverly Gettner and James Clatworthy.

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