

Traffic from page 1A

"When we had a lot of businesses building on 12 Mile, we had a real increase in traffic, especially at rush hours," Cranston said. "We talked to them and asked them to stagger their hours for employees, and that helped."

Attitudes important
That's just part of the education process. But in large part, because there is a heavy volume of traffic, especially in the northern part of Farmington Hills, motorists' attitudes are important.

"When you have someone driving into an intersection on the amber light, or going into an intersection when traffic is backed up, so motorists going the other direction can't get through, it just makes the problems worse," Cranston said. "That's where attitude comes in."

Often, motorists would like to do the right thing, wait until the intersection clears, but then the other guy goes ahead from the crossing street, turns in front and blocks it anyway. That's where enforcement comes in.

"We've had officers on foot, go right up to the driver and write him a ticket," Cranston said.

And although police do give warnings, tickets have proven more effective in easing traffic problems, he said.

Those steps have helped lower both the number of accidents and the severity, Cranston said.

Accidents decrease
In 1989, there were a total of 2,820 accidents resulting in injury to 1,193 people, according to Farmington Hills Police. In 1990 there were 2,586 accidents and 984 injuries; in 1991 there were 2,287 accidents in the city and 846 injuries. If projections hold, there will be 2,120 accidents and 786 injuries in 1992.

That represents a reduction of 25 percent during a time period when the city estimates a traffic increase of 28 percent. Injuries will have been reduced by about 29 percent during that period.

But despite the improvement, city and state officials would like

to see major improvements to the city and county roads, something that will take state and federal money.

Mayor Jon Grant said the building of the Haggerty Road connector will help alleviate some of the city's traffic problems, but there are plenty of other problems that need attention.

Grant said. "We've been trying to get an expansion bridge at Grand River and Halsted for years. But the priorities are set at the state level."

Grant said the high accident rates at the three Farmington Hills intersections could have a bright side.

"It sounds like bad news, but it could be good news," he said. "That's (high accident rates) how you get money for improvements. That's what the priority list is based on."

Developers should pay
State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, said legislators are looking at all types of funding to improve roads. Dolan, who heads the House Republican Task Force on Urban Redevelopment, said

the cost of roads should be looked at in terms of use.

"We always look at the capacity of sewers and water," she said. "We should do the same with roads."

Dolan said requiring developers to pay part of the cost of building roads, just as they are required with sewer and water lines, would help. And although Dolan said asking for new tax money for roads is not necessarily "taboo" for legislators, making sure that road money is distributed equitably is the issue.

"The formula for disbursing is not always fair and equitable," she said. "It's got to be proportionate. We (southeast Michigan) should get a fair return on our tax dollar."

Older roads should be taken care of before new ones receive money, she said. Dolan said she had no idea when new state and federal money for road improvements for Farmington Hills would become available.

Cranston said the best thing motorists can do to ease traffic problems is to use patience.

"Sometimes you have to realize that other people are doing the best they can," he said.

Music instructor a hit at conference

Dennis Tini of Farmington Hills, president of the International Association of Jazz Educators, recently presented the keynote address and directed clinics at its inaugural European conference in Maastricht, Netherlands.

Several thousand educators, artists and students from more than 13 countries attended.

Tini is music department acting chairman at Wayne State University, director of choral ac-

tivities and co-director of the jazz studies program.

The conference was held in conjunction with Jazz MECCA, the largest international jazz festival in the world, with more than 60 jazz groups on eight stages.

Tini will launch a South African chapter of the IAJE at its first annual conference Nov. 30 in Johannesburg. The University of Natal at Durban, the University of Witwatersrand and SAMRO — the South African Music Rights

Organization — will co-sponsor the event.

The universities donate instructional materials and scholarships that are distributed through musical and educational institutions in the area.

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