## Delays

# Expect them as area road projects begin

BY KEN ABEANCTK
STATF WAITEA
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Jim DeSana, director of the
Michigan Department of Transportation, summed up what
western Wayne County comnuters can expect from the construction projects an 1-275, the
Southfield Freeway and 1-75 in
dewntown Patroit.
'Tm not going to stand here
and say you're not going to be
inconvenienced, 'DeSana and.
DeSana and MDOT officials
met Friday at University of
Detroit-Mercy at a transportation summit with county and city
officials and business represenfatives about MDOT's five-year
plan for Wayne County troads,
including a review of this year's
freeway improvements acheduled for Wayne County that will
affect commutes for thousands of
motorists this summer.
Nearly 200,000 motorists who
travel on 1-275 between Five
Milo Road and the interchange
with 1-96, 1-696 and M-5 can
expect traffic congestion while
that seven-mile portion of 1-276
is resurfaced in both directions.
On April 19, MDOT and its
prime contractor, John Carlo
inc, will begin the \$49 million
freeway reconstruction, calling
for the reconstruction of the freeway and entrance and exit

Addresse

### Addresschanges sparks battle

By TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

#### QUALIFIED **VOTER FILE**

Democrata, such us Dianne Byrum of Onondaga, said the bill would work a hardship on college students, the military and merchant marines. "We should be about encouraging people to apriticipate in one of the most basic rights – voting. We should not be discouraging that participation."

Son. Alma Smith, D-Salem,

Sen. Alma Smith, D-Salem, objected that the bill "makes it objected that the bill "makes it very inconvenient for voters to exercise their right to vote in a jurisdiction in which they choose to be politically active."

Byrum and Smith called the Secretary of State's master Qualified Voter File "a work in progress" that is unfinished and flawed.

See Cheir Dincell D.Trenton.

Jawed. Chris Dingell, D-Trenton, twitted Republicans about the residences of former President George Bush. While he was president, Bush hadn't anymore of a residence in Texas than a hotel room in 20 years. How York City (as Un ambassador), he'd been head of the ClA... but he claimed to be a domiciliary of Texas."

Toxas."
Voting yes were 22 Republicans and one Detroit Democrat. All no votes were cast by Democrats. Two Democrats and one Republican were absent.
Here is how area senetors vated:

Here is how aren senators voted:
YES - Republicans Loren Bennett of Canton, Bill Bullard Jr. of Milford, Mat Dunaskiss of Lake Orion, Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak, Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia, Mike Rogers of Brighton, and John J.H. Schwarz of Battle Creek.
NO - Dinnne Byrum of Dnondaga, John Cherry of Clio, George Hart of Dearborn, Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, and Alma Smith of Salem.
If approved by the House and

If approved by the House and signed by the governor, Rogers' bill also would amend the Vehi-

## 'I'm not going to stand here and say you're not going to be inconvenienced.'

Jint DeSana —Michigan Department of Transportation director

ever the freeway. Additional temporary lanes will be constructed to cross traffic ever from the southbound to the northbound side so that three lanes of traffic will be moving in each direction. Traffic will be switched from the northbound to southbound side once the southbound gide is completed.

The project's completion date is set for October. Even though other projects are not in the western Wayne County region, it will affect ravel for motorists who live in this area:

M.39. A nine-mile stretch of the Southfield Freeway in Detroit will be resurfaced between Ford Road in Dearborn and the city of Southfield, causing lane closures, which will affect western Wayne County motorists who use that freeway to travel to Downriver communities, Dearborn or Oakland County Lanes will not be closed dur

ing rush hour traffic. MDOT expects to release more information on this project on Monday.

I-75 between I-96 and I-375:

expects to release more information on this project on Monday.

21-75 between 1-96 and 1-375. That portion of freeway is closed. This \$67 million reconstruction project will affect commutes for western Wayne County motorists who use castbound 1-96 to drive downtown.

Those motorists can still exit onto the Lodge, but traffic congestion is expected. Motorists can stay on the 1-75 local lanes and exit at Grand River to the 1-75 service drive to connect with the city's surface streets. That section of 1-75 will reopen in November.

Kay Beard, vice chair of the Wayne County Commission, attended the summit because she was concerned about the effect the construction would have on travelers.

"I have a personal concern with 1-96 and not being able to exit onto 1-75. Beard said.
Beard, D-Westland, blamed Gov. John Engler for not plecing a tax proposal on the ballot for roads, but added that she was pleased that MDOT's ropairs were calling for simutaneous bridge repairs.

"The roads have deteriorated so badly, it will cost millions and millions to fix them," Beard said.

This will be a hellacious summer with all the work."

When Beard suggested carlier the state should ruise the gas tax for more road repairs, DeSana saked her to influence the legislature to increase that tax and said many counties and communities dedicated their own funds for the roads better, you have the opportunity to put the county's general fund into them," DeSana said.

DeSana also said that people believe he and MDOT control what roads are repaired each year. Actually that process involves local communities, the county road division and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

We aren't the ones that make that decision," DeSana said.

They are being selected locally yEMCOG. When federal dollars are used, SEMCOG must be involved.

A lot of people think they can call the director and get a road fixed, but that's just not the case."

DeSana also told the group the law that governs road money — Act 51 — will be discussed by state lawmakers next year, the

#### Smooth ride

I-275 will be resurfaced this year between I-696 in Farmington Hills and Five Mile in Livonia.

Motorists and nearby residents can expect to see the following:

- motorsts and nearby residents can expect to see the followky:

  In April, crews will add temporary times and power conserver lonest just north of Fixe Mile Blood in Livenia and just south of Grand River in Farmington Hills. Similar to construction completed last year on 1275 between M-14 and 194, traffic from the southbound side will cross over to the northbound side will conserve the second of the second

- The long, "sweeping" entrance and axit ramps on the southbound side for each of these roads will be closed only during their reconstruction. Access is expected on the Access is expected on the northbound side of the freeway – the side open to traffic – during the ramp construction.

  No two interchanges will be closed simultaneously; that is when the Six Mile interchange on the southbound side is closed for repairs, Seven and



- Repairs of 12 bridges over the freeway are expected to last through Cotober. Motorists can expect traffic to be narrowed from two lanes to one in each direction. The Une frame varies for the completion of bridge repairs, as all Robin Pannecouk, MDOT spekesperson,
- MEU) specesperson.

  I ha southbound side is expected to be completed in July. Then the freewing traffic will be switched to that side, also with three lanes in both directions, so the northbound side can then be completed. The bridgework will continue, while the rings of conduction of the freeway will be reported.
- The construction is expected to be finished in October.



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