Traffic unsnarler back

By JACKIE KLEIN

Roger Smith is back in Southfield, managing all the traffic will bear, after a 14-month stint as project supervisor for Traffic Safety Improvement Association (TIA) of Oakland County.

Smith, 38, recently resumed his duties in Southfield with the brand new title of director of department of transportation. A six-year employee of the city, he was Southfield's first full-time traffic engineer before his promotion to deputy director of Southfield public services.

"TIA is a non-profit organization funded by private corporations and individuals," Smith explained. "Its basic goal is to reduce Oakland County's substantial traffic toll. Specific projects are financed through state and federal grants.

"TIA's interests have broadened into the field of traffic engineering problems and solutions. The approach to traffic safety problems among 61 jurisdictions in the county has been fragmented. I was in charge of a pilot program for a unified operation and to provide the training and tools to assist communities."

SMITH WAS involved in the photo-logging of all traffic signs and the computerized indexing of traffic accident locations in the county.

"The practice has been for municipalities to concentrate on high accident corners while other hazardous locations presented more problems," Smith said. "The computerized approach is to measure the rate of accidents per one million cars entering intersections and other locations.

"One of my jobs with TIA was to teach this approach to city administrators, city engineers, police chiefs and others involved in traffic safety. TIA's aim is to develop the tools and expose officials to techniques for solving their own problems."

Smith 's instructions included analyzing high-accident areas, causes of accidents and countermeasures, legal responsibilities and liabilities and federal funding for road improvement. He also set up an inventory system for other government agencies to update street signs. Southfield already has the computerized system for maintaining 6,500 signs, Smith said.

Based on TIA analysis, Smith said, a state-wide Michigan Accident Location Index is being prepared to identify high-collision areas.

Smith's new role as transportation director of Southfield carries a multitude of responsibilities.

HE CHAIRS the transportation planning committee which reviews street planning, operation of the street system, capital construction and contracts with governmental agencies related to transportation and transit.

"Providing transportation in Southfield is a priority," Smith said. "According to my optimistic schedule, by the end of August we should know how much the city can contribute in operating subsidies for buses and routes.

"We hope to apply through the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) before Jan. 1 for a federal grant. But the city is required to provide matching funds for transportation, and we may have to ask taxpayers for a millage increase on a future election ballot. In any event, hopefully, buses will be rolling in Southfield frequently and in large numbers by 1979."

In mid-1978, Smith said, Southfield may have a dial-a-ride system which will be municipally subsidized. Smith estimated 5,000 riders a day will use some form of public transit in the city.

Another priority, Smith said, is to work for a long-term reduction in Southfield's escalating property damage and injury accidents.

"We can't reduce collisions to zero, but we hope to see them drop at least 15 to 20 per cent," he said. "Southfield police are responding to about 5,000 traffic accidents a year. The number of fatalities hasn't risen proportionately, but even one traffic death is too many."

IN 1976, SMITH said, 28 per cent of the accidents were caused by speeding, 24 per cent for failure to yield the right-of-way, 15 per cent for driving left of center and improper lane useage, 15 per cent for following too close and seven per cent for improper use of turn signals.

"We estimate 80 per cent of accidents are caused by driver error," Smith said. "About 5 per cent are caused by road and vehicle problems and the rest by signs, street lights and other elements we're in business to correct."

Too many signs, according to Southfield Traffic Engineer Thomas Vukonich, may confuse drivers who can't absorb all the information on oversigned roads.

"The driver won't get the important message if he's been delayed by unwarranted signs, and that could contribute to an accident," Vukonich said. "Motorists have a habit of disobeying stop signs at intersections. They may slow down, but they'll speed up in the middle of the block."

ROGER SMITH

Meadow Brook has archives

A gift from John Dodge's grandson, John VanLennep, the John Dodge Archives Room at Meadow Brook Hall, is now officially open to the public.

Included in the archive displays are photographs, drawings, newspaper clippings, documents and mementos relating to John Dodge as an individual, an auto pioneer and a philanthropist.

Meadow Brook Hall was the home of John Dodge's children and his widow, Matilda Dodge Wilson, who bequeathed her estate to the state of Michigan for establishment of Oakland University.

LEES FOR LESS

3 DAYS ONLY • THURS., FRI., &SAT.

Lees has reduced prices on its best selling carpet styles! And we are passing these savings on to you.
Find the Lees carpet for your needs & the savings are yours. Your choice of twists, shags, saxony finishes & multi-colored patterns

LEES CARPET

RiteCARPET

BRIGHTON STORE
8497 W. Grand River
Brighton Mall
227-1314
9-9 Daily
9-6 Tues.-Weds.-Sat.

29485 W. 7 Mile Rd.
7 MILE & MIDDLEBELT
ACROSS FROM LIVONIA MALL
476-8360
9-9 Daily 9-6 Tues.-Sat.

CAN'T COME IN? PHONE 476-8360
Our carpet consultant will call at your home with samples...no cost or obligation.

MasterCard BankAmericard Carte Blanche
• Master Charge
• Bank Financing

THE BOARDROOM
For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances
Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center (Inside Hughes & Hatcher)

WE CONCENTRATE ON YOUR COMMUNITY
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

With a Howmet Woodgrain Skylight Screen Room, outdoor dining becomes a practical reality in a flower filled environment.

How to turn your patio into an outdoor room:

☐ Skylights let in soft filtered light.
☐ Patio cover finished to look like rich natural wood--but without the upkeep of wood.
☐ No yearly staining or painting.
☐ Rich Walnut Woodgrain or Golden Oak Woodgrain complement any architectural style.
☐ May be enclosed with screens or glass.

The first patio cover designed for fine homes

Would you like some ideas on how to beautify your patio or back yard?
We have a beautiful full color brochure available-free, of course. Estimates and planning service available at no charge.

343-0043 681-2944
ALUMA-CRAFT, LTD
Licensed/Insured Grosse Pointe
the Weather Shoppers from HOWMET

GRAND OPENING
Call Wear Master and find out how much you can save on
a quieter car...
a smoother ride...
faster, safer stops.
RED'S
WEARMASTER SERVICE CENTER
6144 N. Telegraph
(between Ford & Warren)
274-1914
CUSTOM PIPE BENDING
Wear Master... You'll never know how much you can save unless you call.
VISA
COUPON OFFER
DISCOUNT COUPON
$10 on V-8
$5 on 6-cyl. or less
(Applies to complete Exhaust System Only)
RED'S WEARMASTER SERVICENTER
6144 N. Telegraph
274-1914

BOB'S INDOOR TRAVELING MARKET
Thanks you for making our Farmington store a huge success.
Watch for our Grand Opening and Anniversary Sale August 11 through August 21.
30002 W. 12 MILE, between Middlebelt & Orchard Lake Rd.
Call 851-6614-15 for FREE DELIVERY

• POP DEPARTMENT SPECIALS •
PEPSI, COKE TAB or 7-UP Reg. $1.99 ..... 8 16 OZ. N.R. BTLS. $1.59

PRODUCE SPECIALS FOR FARMINGTON & OAK PARK STORES

SEEDLESS GRAPES 69¢ LB.	Salad Ripe TOMATOES 49¢ LB.	Picked Fresh Daily SWEET CORN 10 for 59¢
Fancy U.S. #1 NECTARINES 39¢ LB.	Chiquita BANANAS 17¢ LB.	PASCAL CELERY 24 Size 39¢ STALK

• DAIRY DEPARTMENT •
Sealtest SOUR CREAM 39¢
Sealtest COTTAGE CHEESE 12 OZ. CTN. 39¢
Sealtest MILK ½ GAL. ONLY 69¢
Superior POTATO CHIPS Reg. 79¢ 59¢ PKG.
SALAD TIME AT BOB'S: Cucumber & Onion, Health Salad, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad 3 OZ. PKG. 49¢ LB.
BAGELS Reg. $1.50 99¢ DOZ.

• BOB'S KOSHER DELI COUNTER •
Osherwitz featuring Osherwitz Made by the Best
SALAMI, BOLOGNA or HOT DOGS All Time Low Price $1.49 LB.
Osherwitz Kosher CORNED BEEF, PEPPER BEEF, ROAST BEEF or TONGUE $3.39 LB.
• Carry Out from Our Deli Counter •
Kosher HOT CORNED BEEF, HOT BEEF or HOT PASTRAMI SANDWICH..... $1.49 EACH

While shopping at Bob's Visit our Famous CHEESE PALACE
Cheeses from all over the World at Low Discount Prices!

SMOKEFISH or SABLE Reg. $3.99 LB. $3.79 LB.
Handsliced NOVA or BELLY LOX Only $2.50 ¼ LB.
Ma Cohen's LOX..... Reg. $1.79 $1.49 LB.

STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9 to 7 Sat. 9 to 8 Sunday 9 til 2