

Highway group is speedy

By JUDITH BERNE
 The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) studying the possible extension of Northwestern Highway was not accused of slacking tactics Tuesday night.

Aided by the appointment of temporary chairman Ann Beusie, in the absence of chairman Walter Chisler, the group worked through nine amendments to its previously adopted plan for a highway environmental impact study and completed its agenda in less than two hours.

The committee also decided to meet next during December ahead of a joint session with the citizens' Northwestern Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at Farmington Hills City Hall.

At the joint meeting, the number of consultants who will carry out the study as well as the selection process will be considered.

By that time, both committees will have handed plans for an environmental impact statement to the state highway department.

It will be up to department officials to determine the final design plan either by adopting one of the two meeting the two or coming up with additions of its own.

The CAC design is essentially the TAC plan with a number of amendments that expand the scope, some of which were made Tuesday night.

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Franklin Village "That may never happen."

"Ultimately, TAC and CAC must have a meeting of the minds," Koldziej said. "If we can't, we're lacking in statesmanship."

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED a series of amendments offered by Fred Doerfer of Concerned Citizens of Franklin, and tabled at last month's meeting.

In Doerfer's absence, George Snyder of the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council presented the amendments.

The thrust of the amendments was to broaden the concept of the design for the impact statement to require adequate public input and that all sides of the issue would be included.

By the new amendments:

- A public hearing, referred to as a singular in the adopted plan is now made a plural, assuring that multiple hearings will be held on Northwestern.
- Structures and materials provided for public consumption at the meeting will be provided by the consultant subject to approval by both committees.
- Gathering population data to aid in estimating future traffic and population of the area affected by an extension of Northwestern was expanded to include a wide variety of sources, conflicting data and how it is resolved, keeping in mind the circular nature of the building of the highway on the population.
- An addition was made to transportation alternatives that might be extended such as an action to build or the extension of Northwestern Highway. This includes modified improvements which could mean widening arterial roadways and making other improvements on Northwestern without a pending it and without creating a freeway.

The CAC composed of 19 resident advisers representing areas which would be affected by the extension of Northwestern Highway has been meeting since April to study impact of the highway, select a consultant and approve a final draft of an impact statement.

THE BARE QUORUM present Tuesday agreed by a 9-2 vote to devote an opinion survey as a method of identifying issues and replace it with a conceptual mapping technique developed by Richard Dale, present chairman of the University of Michigan's Planning Department.

According to Sheila Oakes of Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield, "Conceptual mapping's primary purpose is to view the proposed project as a whole with all its ramifications and implications rather than to view it in a segmented manner."

Its use can take the emotion out of an issue, Mrs. Oakes said. "The whole is due to be laid out on a sheet, which is a circle, so that no one issue is more important than another."

Sister Margaret Basso, a member of the audience familiar with the technique called it a holistic approach that would open up dialogue between technical and non-technical people and allow a non-win-or-lose situation.

She believes the conceptual mapping technique will give equal weight to professional and non-professional and pave the way for a more educated decision.

DAVID KORODZIEL, alternative for Mark Schmalzleit, representing Concerned Citizens of Southfield, opposed the amendment believing that how issues are identified should be left up to the consultant's taste.

"It's up to us to give him a direction, a technique," Koldziej said.

His amendment is to give the consultant the right to determine a technique, subject to approval of the Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, was defeated.

"Do you mean that TAC and CAC must agree?" asked Donna Lebow, representing

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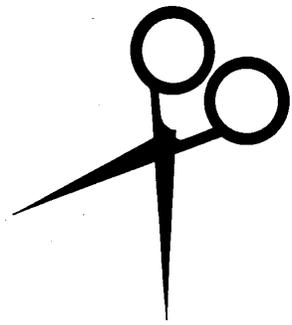
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