

# OCC declines road-tax party invite

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Oakland Community College trustees said "no, thanks" to the county road commission's request that they climb aboard the road-tax bandwagon.

"It's out of the scope of the college as an issue," said Trustee Gordon Henderson, summing up the board's feeling.

"I don't feel qualified to buy this on their recommendation only. It's not directly involved with us as a board," added the trustee from Birmingham.

"We shouldn't do a thing about it," said Chairman Earl Anderson of Madison Heights. He and trustee David Hackett of Avon even took a couple of jokes at the road commission.

The board agreed by voice vote to pass up the road-tax issue.

THE OAKLAND County Road Commission is one of several road agencies in Michigan seeking passage of state Rep. Mary Brown's bills to increase road funding by something like \$100 million annually.

Mrs. Brown, D-Kalamazoo, has offered five bills, but the road commis-

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sion is supporting four, shying away from one guaranteeing public-transit funding.

The key bill would raise the gasoline tax from a flat 11 cents per gallon to 11 percent of the wholesale price. The county road board would like to see that raised to a minimum of 15 cents, Chairman Fred Houghten said.

Reduced gasoline sales and lighter rates are generally credited with Michigan's reduction in road revenues.

"THESE SHORTFALLS," argues the road commission, "have forced the Oakland County Road Commission to cancel half its construction program in 1980 and cancel additional construction-maintenance and traffic-safety

services during the current year.

"Without relief, the road commission will be forced to make further substantial cuts and begin the layoff of employees, which will impair its ability to maintain the 2,557 miles of county roads."

Other bills in the package would set

a single licensing fee for all passenger vehicles of \$28 (current range is \$20 to \$26), increase truck licenses 30 percent and assign more state sales-tax revenue to public transit.

"A FEW WEEKS back, they gave themselves a nice raise," Anderson said of the road commission.

"If their supervisors really saw that men work on the jobs when they're supposed to, it wouldn't be as expensive as it is today," Anderson said.

Hackett said, "I have a problem with the physics. It seems as cars get lighter they should wear down the roads less."

Henderson said the wear and tear could be attributed to trucks.

## OCC, faculty reach accord

Oakland Community College has a tentative contract with its faculty union, college officials said.

The OCC Faculty Association, representing 300 instructors, was scheduled

to hold a ratification vote Wednesday. Classes are to start today.

The new two-year contract would be retroactive to Sept. 1 and run until Aug. 31, 1983. The previous contract also was for two years.

## Voc-tech, printing classes are equipped

Two Oakland Community College campuses soon will receive shipments of instructional equipment, thanks in part to the federal government.

The Auburn Hills campus, where OCC conducts most of its vocational-technical programs, is due for nearly \$77,000 in new equipment. The OCC board last week approved purchases of:

- 28 drafting tables with straightedge and student chairs for \$16,451 from Northwest Blueprint Co.
- Equipment for "alternate energy" instruction, mainly solar heating machines, worth nearly \$35,000. Suppliers are John Close, Inc., SunHouse, Inc., and Star Pak, Inc. Trustee Richard Pappas of Troy said, "We're pioneering. A lot of people say, 'It won't work. We're making it work.'"

• Engineering technology equipment worth a total of \$22,542 from four suppliers.

The federal government will reimburse 46 percent of the purchase price, said David W. Sturges, director of purchasing.

OCC's Highland Lakes campus at Union Lake will get \$15,728 in science equipment purchased from Tektronix, Inc., the low bidder. The purchase includes three oscilloscopes and 13 function generators. Money came from a building and site fund.

Highland Lakes new publications-technology program has \$33,275 in typesetting equipment from Compu-graphic Co., the low bidder. The cost is offset by 46-percent federal aid.

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