

Roads get \$8.2 million more from state, federal aid

By Carol Axelsen
staff writer

Oakland County roads will get \$8.2 million in improvements, thanks mainly to higher state transportation taxes and federal aid.

This will help us catch up on some of the long-overdue road improvements and maintenance work," Road Commission Chairman John R. Gnaou Jr. of West Bloomfield said Monday.

The road commission received \$5.2 million additional revenue from state-collected gasoline and weight taxes, which were raised by the Michigan Legislature late in 1982. This qualified it for federal aid of \$4.7 million. The net adjusted revenue increase will be \$9.6 million, according to Managing Director John L. Grubba.

The new revenue boosts the \$31.4 million budget to \$41 million — the largest in the road commission's 70-year history, Grubba said.

MOST OF the new money will be used for pavement resurfacing and safety improvements. The exact projects are yet to be determined.

The road commission will be able to resurface and maintain 75 miles of the 128 miles of roads it has identified as being seriously overdue for work. These 75 miles include 25 miles of resurfacing and 50 miles of heavy maintenance in the form of large-area patches, which Grubba called more satisfactory than "pothole" patching.

In addition to road improvements, the commission plans to spend \$1.64 million

this year for salary increases, additional staff and new equipment.

The road panel set aside \$318,000 for 5 percent pay hikes beginning July 1, when employee contracts expire. "Our employees have not had compensation increases since 1981," Gnaou said.

Eight more staffers will be hired for about \$302,000. Five of those positions will be filled by employees who had been laid off since 1981, when the road commission slashed 65 positions from its budget.

THE COMMISSION added \$30,000 to the Engineering Department's overtime budget in anticipation of carrying out the new road improvement projects.

New equipment — including a pavement

patching machine and traffic signal maintenance boom truck — will cost \$462,000.

Constructing an equipment storage facility (\$125,000) and pollution control facilities (\$303,000) and replacing a storage building roof (\$28,650) were also approved by the road panel.

Another \$160,000 was added to the materials budget to pay for asphalt and electrical equipment for the road maintenance program.

The more than \$50,000 saved by eliminating the County Highway Engineer Division will be used to beef up the employee training program.

The rest of the money — \$109,939 — will go into the road commission's contingency fund.

M-DOT lets road contracts

Western Construction Co., Utica, was the low bidder — at \$115,506 — on a contract to construct a deceleration lane, partial ramp and retaining wall on the ramp connecting southbound US-24 with westbound Eight Mile in Southfield.

The project is expected to be completed in June 1983. It was one of 26 highway, railroad and airport construction projects on which bids were taken Jan. 19, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Other Oakland County road projects are:

- Reconstruction of 0.3 of a mile of Joslyn Road from just north of Lake

Angelus Road to just north of Brown Road. The project will complete the connection between the I-75/Joslyn Road interchange and the new General Motors plant in Orion Township. Low bidder was B & V Construction Inc., Novi, at \$378,782. Target date for completion is July, 1983.

- Removal of existing structure and construction of a single-span, I-beam bridge and approaches carrying Lahser Road over the Claire Drain in Southfield. The project is expected to be completed in November 1983. Low bidder was Walter Toebe Construction Co., Wixom, at \$558,605.

CAREFUL!!

Some computer stores call Atari a toy computer and suggest trading it in on an Apple...



Don't Do Anything Silly!

Any way you look at it, affordable ATARI Home Computers offer you the best value around. With expandable memory capacity (up to 160K) ATARI Home Computers offer a full range of sophisticated programs spanning everything from home finance to home entertainment to small business management.

BUY COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES \$39.95

Including: • Free Introductory Training • Customer Hotline • Technical Library • Trade-up Assistance • Discounted Extended Warranties • Special Rates on Family Training

AND OWN YOUR OWN

ATARI 400 for just \$199*

ATARI 800 for just \$499*

*This price good with purchase of Computer Support Services

THE FAMILY COMPUTER CENTER

The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop

3895 W. 12 Mile, Berkley 643-0520

Mon. - Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 1-5



A bonus Valentine! from Diamondair II™ A round 0.50 pts. pendant... yours as a gift with purchase of either of these sparkling 14K yellow gold and heart-shaped treasures. Simulated diamonds so beautiful they're nearly indistinguishable from the real thing! Pierced earrings: 2 cts.; 215. Pendant on 16" S-chain, 2 cts.; 215. In Fine Jewelry Collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy • Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn

Grain de Beauté Valentine Special

Fragrances are as individual as the one that wears them.

At the Grain de Beauté Boutique in Claire Pearone, you can choose fragrances from the world's most prestigious designers. Featuring unique fragrances to wear, to share or home environment airs!

♥ STOP BY...ACQUAINT YOURSELF AND RECEIVE A FREE VALENTINE TREAT.

claire pearone

2771 Somerset Mall • Troy • Mi. 48084 • (313) 643-0770



Les Fantaisies. Chanel's Beauty Spring Ritage. Makeup of the woman who desires the complete effect of entertainment. Find an extraordinary collection of soft washes and subtle shading. From Chanel, a way to wear your beauty artistically. In Hudson's Ales of Beauty at Oakridge Center, 10500 Valley Road, Oakridge, 10500. Versis A. Chanel/Chanel Rouge A. Chanel/Chanel Crème Nail Enamel. 512. Chanel Eyeliner. 512. Chanel Eyeliner. 512. A special Chanel gift is yours when you meet with Chanel Beauty Analyste Terri Vades of Hudson's Oakridge Ales of Beauty. For reservations call 565-3222, ext. 2288.

hudson's aisles of beauty



ORDER BY PHONE: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In Metro Detroit, call 569-2454. Elsewhere, order toll-free 1-800-233-2000.