

County eyes transit study

By Kathy Parrish
Staff writer

Oakland County officials are hoping to get federal money to look into private transportation where public buses don't run.

"We certainly are optimistic about it," said Jean Willoughby, county director of federal and state aid. "Meanwhile, we're just waiting for word."

DESPITE OPPOSITION from Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), the county applied for a \$188,500 grant to study feasibility of a privately operated public transportation service. Oakland County would match the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant with \$37,700.

The study would look at existing public transportation services as well as areas SEMTA isn't serving.

"This task is expected to yield an understanding of the unmet transportation needs of the Oakland County riding public," says the work plan.

SEMTA CONTENDS the study will disrupt rela-

tions between Oakland County and the area transportation authority.

At a meeting last week, its board of directors asked for an attorney general's opinion whether a municipality can bypass the agency in seeking a transportation grant.

But Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) okayed the request, provided that an "oversight committee" provides input. On the committee would be representatives of area counties as well as SEMTA, SEMCOG, Michigan Department of Transportation.

SEMCOG also cautioned that the study must respect the integrity of its regional consensus plan for transportation, which has been approved by SEMCOG members.

OAKLAND COUNTY Executive Daniel Murphy said he expects the study to strengthen SEMTA by increasing awareness of public transportation in the metropolitan area.

He contends the study's recommendations would also identify new routes to connect with and extend the SEMTA system.

Road employees get promotions

Two Oakland County Road Commission employees have been promoted to department head positions.

Troy resident Gerald M. Holmberg is the new director of engineering and county highway engineer. David F. Allyn of Clarkston is new director of the Traffic-Safety Department.

The promotions were made following the Aug. 31 resignation of former Engineering Department director Dennis A. Gryllski.

As engineering Department director, Holmberg is responsible for planning and administration of road improvement projects which are contracted to



Gerald Holmberg



David F. Allyn

private companies that bid. The Engineering Department designs projects, acquires rights of ways for them, tests materials, supervises construction and administers subdivision street matters.

Holmberg, 38, had been Traffic-Safety Department Director since 1974 and has been with the Road Commission since 1969.

As Traffic-Safety Department Director, Allyn is responsible for planning and administration of installation and maintenance of traffic control devices.

Allyn, 36, had been Traffic Operations Engineer in the Traffic-Safety Department since 1979. He joined the Road Commission in 1974.

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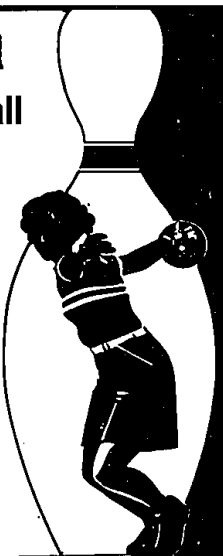
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