Move toward private transit operators seen

A state senator, a regional leader and a federal official say that private

A state senator, a regionar toos: and a federal official say that private bus companies could meet some of the public transit needs of southcastern Michigan. In their thinking, a metropolitan transit agency could coordinate routes and parcel out government ald, signing contracts with private firms and subsi-diring there as needed. If that happened, there would be no need to merge the existing Southcast-ern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) and Detroit's Department of Transportation — a merger that is mandated by state law, but which De-troit Mayor Coleman Young has resist-ed.

"I AM A strong advocate of privat-ization," said state Sen. Richard Fes-sler, R-West Bloomfield, chairman of

The Senate Transportation Committee. Tessler said he is drafting legislation to allow private or manices to bil avoid-tion to create semi-trad area to bil avoid-due to screw semi-trad area. What I'm proposing is more compe-tition, more accessibility of service to edderly and rural residents and more cost-effectiveness within the entire southcast Michigan transportation sys-tem," he said. Fessler is author of a plan to replace SEMTA with a flyew-member Metropol-tan Transit Authority board serving betroit, out-Wayne County, Oakland and Maccemb counties. Oakland County commissioners have repeatedly threatened to withdraw from SEMTA and set u their own transit district. Fessler's bill would al under a single transit agency. SENTA WaS created by the Legisla

ture in 1968 to absorb all the private and public bus systems in the seven-county region and replace them with a single, coordinated agency. "SENTA goobled up the little bus lines," Fessior said, "and created a bu-

lines," Fessier said, "and created a bu-reaucracy." SEMTA and the city of Detroit, how-ever, have been unable to agree on a merger because Young wants guaran-tees that Detroit's level of service wouldn't be cut. While both systems have federal and state subsidies, only DDOT has a local subsidy, and thus has a higher level of service.

inder a single transit agency. SEMTA has been unsuccessful in SEMTA WAS created by the Legisla-

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gional transit tax proposal on the bal-lot. SEMTA officials say theirs is the only large transit agency in the country without its own source of financing.

Thursday, May 23, 1985 O&E

Precious nature should be saved

S THE world's population continues to grow and concrete spreads over the land, natu-ral arcas continue to fail prey to develop-ment. But lately many communities are calizing how valuable natural arcas can be to all beir resident.

realizing now valuate instance in their residents. Preserving land in its natural state provides a contrast to the maze of urban and suburban streets. Natural areas improve the esthetics of a communi-ty by adding variety to the landscape. New York City's Central Park is a prime example. Natural areas are also excellent teaching tools that can provide the most effective classroom an educator could want.

MANY PRINCIPLES of life and living can be graphically demonstrated with a "hands-on" expe-fence. Not only can science subjects such as ecolo-gy, biology, geology and geography be taught in the lield, but there is no better source of inspiration for the humanities than the natural world. Poetry, art and creative writing can all be taught in the outdoor classroom. After all, a schoolroom

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with roses Amoco gas dealers will distribute roses on Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, with donations going to the Cystic Fibrosis Foun-dation.

the opact rules of the Amo-co brains Against Cyslic Fibrois, the rose dona-tion was the idea of Carry Fritz, president of the or-ganization and a Bir-mingham Amoco dealer. "Six years ago, a few dealers got together and put on an annual goil tournament. In those six years, we've raised \$100,000. But the tourna-ment is only for dealers.

ment is only for dealers, and we want the public to

we believe a cure is only dollars away."



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tween 10 and 11 Mile roads is being acquired by the eity through the state fand trust act.

By maintaining this area it its natural state and using the land for leisure activities and teaching, the entire community can gain.



(SEARCOG), a volunity regional plan-ning agency. Amberger, in a SEMCOG newsletter, drew a distinction between government 1) providing a service and 2) providing it. Providing a service is deciding that a service will be provided and govern-ment will pay for it. Producing, on the

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analysis

By Tim Richard



