



City manager William Costick highlights Farmington Hills' major road bond and construction program by use of a map.

'Roads, roads and roads' top problem in Oakland County

Roads were on the minds of the two local city managers at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities breakfast March 17.

"As it was aptly put by our county executive, Dan Murphy, the three biggest problems in Oakland County are roads, roads and more roads," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick told 150 business, civic, professional and government leaders during the annual breakfast, hosted by Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America.

Farmington Hills "has more miles of roads than any other community

in Oakland County," Costick said. "And that includes Troy and Southfield."

The city is responsible for maintaining 280 miles of roads. "If you envision that, you can drive to the Upper Peninsula," Costick said.

Farmington Hills road projects have a direct effect on neighboring Farmington, said Farmington city manager Robert Deadman.

"An awful lot of the road systems that begin in Farmington Hills terminate in the city of Farmington," Deadman said. "So their problems are our problems."

"Our traffic volumes have been growing far in excess of our population growth, and it's primarily caused by the growth north and west of the city of Farmington," he added.

LAST YEAR, Farmington Hills rebuilt 11 miles of roadway at a cost to the city of \$8 million, Costick said.

He listed safety and capacity improvements to state-maintained I-696, Haggerty Road and Northwestern Highway, county-maintained 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads and city-maintained Drake Road as un-

completed priority projects.

Traffic signal and intersection improvements are planned throughout the city, he said.

Farmington is studying traffic volumes on Grand River and Farmington Road in an effort to deter drivers from seeking shortcuts through adjacent downtown subdivisions, Deadman said.

"The traffic counts on Grand River are indicating we have a very shallow peak hour flow," he said.

"It basically begins in the AM, build throughout the day until the PM hours. It doesn't begin to be reduced till after 5 p.m. So Grand River is truly a major artery through our community."

Traffic signals will be improved at high accident or congested intersections during the next six years. Also slated for safety and capacity improvements, Deadman said, are Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Road, Drake Road and the Nine Mile-Farmington Road intersection.

Township OKs motion to stop highway extension

By Jeff Counts
staff writer

A resolution aimed at stopping any extension of Northwestern Highway was approved 4-2 Monday by the West Bloomfield Township Board, but the issue could show up on the ballot if outgoing Supervisor John N. Doherty has his way.

"I'll bring it up again before leaving office," said Doherty, whose resignation becomes effective April 30. "Even after that I'll try to get somebody to bring up the issue."

Doherty said he is pushing for the vote because it would settle the issue, and the results could be passed on to the state. Trustees voted 4-2 against putting it on the ballot.

The township board has twice voted against an extension of Northwestern, but was prompted to do so again by a lawsuit brought recently by the Oakland County Road Commission against the state. The road commission is trying to force the state to complete the project, started in 1957, by extending the road through the township, nearly to Fenton.

DOHERTY, WHO along with trustee Raymond Holland voted against the resolution to stop the highway, said he opposes a highway similar to Northwestern, but that such a resolution would close off alternatives to solving that area's traffic problem.

Doherty said traffic in the area is going to get worse and the township shouldn't take a "do nothing" attitude.

He added he would back an extension only if there was a greenbelt on both sides of it, and any development restricted to side streets coming off the extension.

Trustee Gordon Allardice, who voted against the ballot proposal, said putting the issue up for a vote would be "passing the buck back to the citizens."

In another vote on the Northwestern issue, the board voted 6-0 to have the township attorney monitor the lawsuit between the road commission and the state.

The board was asked by Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield, which has long opposed the extension, and Steven Buda, a West Bloomfield resident and an attorney, to intervene in the suit.

Lorna McEwen, co-president of Concerned Citizens, urged the board to intervene, saying: "Don't pussy-foot around. We elected you to represent us."

Buda offered to assist the township, if it intervenes in the case.

MEANWHILE, IN neighboring Farmington Hills, David Call, assistant city manager, Tuesday called for an extension of Northwestern Highway to Maple, saying Northwestern should connect to another state

trunkline or interstate.

"Unfortunately, we don't have controlling interest because the extension of Northwestern Highway would be in West Bloomfield."

"The problems that we have on Northwestern Highway, particularly at 14 Mile, are not going to go away unless provisions are made to take traffic from that intersection and move it to where it can be better handled," he said.

Call said the best solution is to extend Northwestern to Maple, and then to widen Maple to the proposed M-9 trunkline in the Haggerty Road corridor. M-9 is expected to be started in 1989 or 1990.

"If the extension dies, the state and county will have to take a strong look at how to take traffic from that intersection (Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile) to the lakes area and up to the north," he said.

TENTATIVE STATE plans have called for extending Northwestern one mile north of Orchard Lake Road to Maple. However, one Michigan Department of Transportation official recently said there are no plans on the books to extend the highway.

Despite that, members of the Concerned Citizens group plan on addressing the MDOT Commission Friday, McEwen said. She said the group plans to give the commission a copy of the township's Northwestern resolution.

military news

Tapping the military news pipeline:

● PARACHUTIST BADGE

Pvt. Andrew Strelczuk of Farmington has received the parachutist badge upon completing the three-week airborne course at the Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. Students underwent a rigorous physical training program and were

instructed in the theory of parachuting.

They also were trained in jumping from 34-foot and 250-foot towers. The final week, they made five static-line parachute jumps, including one night jump.

Strelczuk is a 1987 Farmington High School graduate.

Seniors are merit finalists

Farmington High seniors Katie Kreiter and Lara Sipols were selected finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., according to information from the school.

They will compete for 1,800 Na-

tional Merit Scholarships valued at \$2,000 each.

Merit finalists are selected on the basis of their SAT scores, academic achievements and applications. Winners will be announced in April.

● FINISHES TRAINING

Pvt. Candy Rock of Farmington Hills has completed basic training at Fort Dix, N.J.

Students were instructed in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Rock is a 1987 graduate of Clarendonville High School.

● SHE GRADUATES

Katharina Kettenstock of Farmington Hills graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

She studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs. She received special training in human relationships.

Kettenstock is a 1986 graduate of Central Michigan University.

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