

Novi vote puts Haggerty connector a step closer

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near Maple Road. With an estimated cost of \$114.8 million, it would displace 119 residences and 65 businesses.

Alternative 4A calls for a major interchange on 14 Mile, west of Haggerty, that would provide ramps to connect with I-375, I-96 and I-696. It would curve easterly to bypass the peat bog north of 14 Mile. It would displace 28 residences and four businesses, and has an estimated price tag of \$72 million.

ALTERNATIVE 4A is the one preferred by the Farmington Hills City Council and many Farmington Hills residents. "We chose 4A because we felt that was the best alternative with regard to the environmental impact. We hope our opinion is correct," Sever said.

The action apparently paves the way for work to continue on some sort of Haggerty Road connector project in western Oakland County.

"We were pleased with the Novi City Council's action that would leave the project open," Sever said.

The decision to endorse one of two alternatives comes two weeks after the council voted to adopt a "no endorsement" position on the Haggerty Road connector proposals. The "no endorsement" position

caught officials from MDOT by surprise since the council has consistently supported plans for a north-south connector route to ease traffic congestion on Haggerty Road for the past three years.

MDOT director Mike Flajole told the city council at a special meeting on June 15 that failure to endorse one of the alternatives could jeopardize the entire project. Flajole said MDOT needed city approval of one of the alternatives before the state could move ahead with property acquisition to construct the proposed interchange and the roadway that will extend from Twelve Mile north to Pontiac Trail.

STRONG SUPPORT for endorsing Alternative 4A came from Novi Mayor Matthew Quinn and Novi council member Martha Hoyer. Council member Joseph Toth and Hugh Crawford.

The remaining council members — Nancy Covert, Edward Leininger and Bob Watson — formed the nucleus of the coalition that led to support of either Alternative 3B or 4A. "We are taking the first step toward resolving traffic problems in this community," Quinn said.

Toth took an opposing position, saying the Haggerty Road connector will magnify the existing traffic problem — not solve it.

Leininger said he wanted to see the final EIS before giving "carte blanche" approval of Alternative 4A. "If we support one of the other alternatives, it would permit work on the interchange to be started," he said.

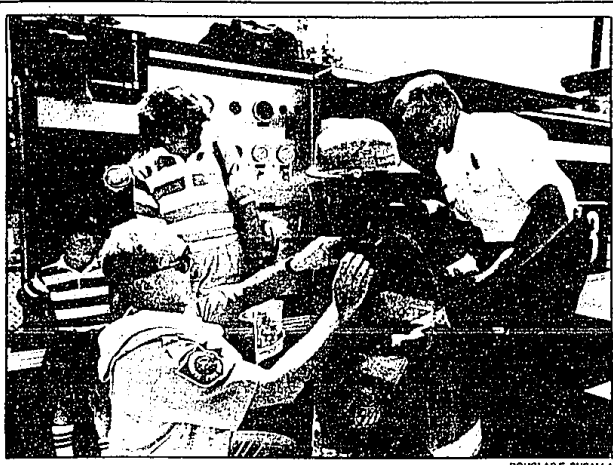
Watson defended the council's "no endorsement" position of June 5, but acknowledged the need to move forward.

"There's no doubt that there's an immense problem (with traffic that must be resolved)," Watson said. "If we wait another year, five years or 20 years, there would still be no perfect solution."

Despite their strong support for Alternative 4A, Quinn and Hoyer joined Leininger, Covert and Watson in the 5-2 vote to back one of the Haggerty Road connector alternatives.

"I can live with it (the motion) because it sets the process in motion," Quinn said.

Staff writer Joanne Maliszewski contributed to this report.



Sizing it up

Farmington Hills firefighter Mike Klah (left) and District Fire Chief Bob Rebovy equip Stephen List, 8, of Farmington Hills, in firefighting gear as mom Paula and brother Kevin, 5, watch during the Farmington Hills Police Department open house June 4.

DOUGLAS E. BUSALLA

Contact with floodwater could produce ailments

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he didn't shower or wash well after the contact.

Oakland County health officials issued a health warning after the flooding last week, advising people to stay out of the water, which contains human waste products because of the combined sewer systems in the area. In heavy rains, these systems overflow into the Rouge River. "That's our biggest concern," said Gary Frick, Oakland County Health Department water quality supervisor. "That's where the problems lie."

FRICK SAID he had not yet received any complaints about

health problems related to the flooding.

If you are generally healthy, abdominal cramping and diarrhea symptoms will eventually take care of themselves, unless you have other health problems or are dehydrated, said one area doctor.

"In most situations, when you're dealing with healthy people, most of the diarrheal diseases are self-limiting," said Dr. Wiley Fan, a Botaford General Hospital physician involved with infection control.

But Fan said the bacteria from Hepatitis A is not uncommon in flooding or contaminated water situations, especially when water seeps into wells.

"In a flood situation, almost all well water and water tables become high and can become contaminated," he said. "I would venture to guess in three or four months, the health department will be getting reports of outbreaks of Hepatitis A because of the recent flooding."

HEPATITIS IS an inflammatory disease of the liver that has a one-month incubation period. It is "the most common non-diarrheal illness transmitted by water," Fan said.

He also stressed that family members of the infected person would also be at risk once it is diagnosed. "Hepatitis is a potential problem anywhere you have infected water," Oakland County's Frick agreed, adding that it's difficult to tell people to stay out of flooded waters because of the health risks. "It's just human nature — it's like a magnet."

On Friday, the Red Cross was quickly putting together pamphlets on disinfecting houses and other health issues related to the flooding. Residents can obtain one by calling 833-4440.

Emergency not declared

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From 3 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 21-22 alone, 2.35 inches fell, according to a memo issued by Farmington Hills golf course and grounds superintendent Jon Maddern.

"We've had problems all over," Farmington Hills public services director Thomas Blaisell said.

RESIDENTS WITH flooded basements and yards who are concerned about black, gooey stuff floating on the flooded waters have good reason to be concerned. It's sewage on the loose.

"That is a concern certainly," Blaisell said.

The diluted sewage is not a problem to drinking water, but residents of houses built before the mid-1960s when sump pumps became required probably will see floating sewage.

"When there's a backup without a sump, that backup is generally sanitary sewage that's highly diluted. After heavy rains, the lines become overloaded, and it backs up in the lowest point — the basement," Blaisell said. "It will go down when the sewer has the capacity."

Long-planned Evergreen-Farmington sewer improvements, particularly construction of a retention pond at O.E. Dunckel Middle School on 12 Mile, is expected to keep sanitary sewage overflows out of storm drains. But that won't necessarily help flooded basements, Blaisell said.

CITY PLANS to enlarge drain capacity for Kendallwood were cast aside by the state Department of Natural Resources a few months ago. In its place will be a program to replace older sewer lines that are cracked and deteriorating.

Doctor at epilepsy session

Richard Martocci, certified neurologist at the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders, Farmington Hills, attended an epilepsy minisymposium at Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Martocci, 47, was among 25 neurologists in the United States to attend the weeklong course in Winston-Salem. Each neurologist was selected on the basis of practice in the area of diagnosis and management of seizures.

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Martocci is certified in neurology by the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. The Bloomfield Hills resident has been a partner and practicing neurologist at the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders since 1972.

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