



Taking part in the I-696 ribbon cutting were (from left): Farmington Hills councilmen Aldo Vagnozzi and Paul Sowerby, Mayor Terry Sever, Oakland County special projects coordinator Jack Driker, Hills councilwoman Jean

Fox, state Sen. Richard Foster, Hills council members Ben Marks and Jody Sorenson and state highway department construction engineer Gary Taylor.

Improved I-696 opens

Continued from Page 1

struction, for the sensitivity his workers showed in handling noise concerns during the project.

Holloway completed the project early, earning a more than \$1 million bonus, generated from a \$10,000-per-day arrangement for early completion. The contractor would have paid a similar, per-day amount in penalties if the project was late. Work began in July 1988.

AS PART of the project, the state has also agreed to build noise barriers at westbound I-696 west of Orchard Lake Road, eastbound I-696

east of Halsted and eastbound I-696 west of I-475.

One MDOT official said Tuesday the barriers in Farmington Hills are in the design stage; officials said in earlier reports they will be contracted for and installed following the Farmington Hills-Southfield widening project, probably sometime in 1991.

A noise barrier along westbound I-696 near Tyler in Southfield is planned for the mid-1990s.

I-696 will be eight lanes, four in each direction, from I-275 to I-75, except for three miles from Telegraph Road to Southfield Road in

Southfield, where it will narrow to six lanes, three in each direction.

When fully opened at a cost of \$657 million in federal and state money, I-696 will span 27 miles, linking I-275 in Farmington Hills-Novi to I-94 in St. Clair Shores.

During a ribbon cutting at the eastbound I-696 entrance ramp about 1 p.m. Tuesday, Duane N. Hampton, 47, of Linden, became distracted for a moment and his car hit the back of a car stopped for a red light at the eastbound I-696 exit ramp, pushing that car into the back of another stopped car, Farmington Hills police said. No one was hurt.

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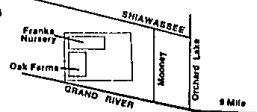
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