



Students at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield are anxiously awaiting the opening of I-696 which will shorten their commuting time. Pictured are Suzanne Cervenak (left), Sandy Holland, Doug Ozdarski and Bob Ferer.

Student commuters praise missing link

By Tim Smith
staff writer

"It figures," said Doug Ozdarski, a senior at Lawrence Technological University who commutes daily to classes at the Southfield college from Milford. He's been waiting several years for the missing I-696 link to be completed.

"Now that I won't be needing it, it's done," the 22-year-old said Monday during a break from his studies in physics and mechanical engineering. There was more than a bit of sarcasm in his voice.

But Ozdarski, and several other interviewed LTU commuters, anxiously await today's opening of the final piece to the I-696 puzzle.

That's because it will more quickly get them to classes, jobs or parties without the stop-and-go traffic or rush-hour frustrations that long have

had a grip on motorists.

Less time on the road means more time getting things accomplished, they agreed.

THE 9.1-MILE completion of I-696 from I-75 west to Telegraph Road could affect 40 percent of LTU's 5,500 students.

According to a college spokesman, 93 percent of Lawrence Tech students commute, some from such distant points as Port Huron. More than 17 percent drive to and from Macomb County.

One of the Macomb commuters, mechanical engineering senior Bob Ferer, said he'll be using the new stretch the first day. "All the way out to Van Dyke (Road),"

According to Ferer, 23, the freeway will make his 50-mile round trip from Mt. Clemens to LTU much less complicated.

He agreed with Ozdarski that his life would have been easier, as far as commuting to LTU is concerned, had the segment been completed earlier in his college career.

But Ferer said there will be many other reasons for him to travel the completed stretch. Those include motoring to Ann Arbor for football games and other social gatherings.

"I'M JUST excited that I won't have to sit in stop-and-go traffic," said 23-year-old junior Suzanne Cervenak, who still has a 30-45 minute commute to LTU — after moving from Grosse Pointe to Troy.

Until the freeway's completion, for Cervenak, "east meets west" (the MDOT project theme) meant jogging from Maple/John R west to Coolidge, south to 13 Mile, west to Evergreen and south to 10 Mile to the Lawrence Tech campus.

Freeway opening closes era

Continued from Page 1

But Southfield officials argued that the roads can't be made large enough to handle peak hour traffic.

Southfield Mayor Donald Fracassi in 1980 was called to Washington for what was billed as a very important meeting with officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The topic was completion of the I-696 freeway. The big payoff, he turned out to be another delay of the decision to fund or shelve plans for the expressway.

"I just came back from another meeting on I-696 to work out differences which are in the way," Fracassi said. "In 1989, I'll probably still be saying we just had another meeting

on the expressway.

"We're now observing the silver anniversary of nothing."

THE STATE conducted a socioeconomic study of the effects of the freeway route on the orthodox Jewish community.

By 1982, MDOT had purchased 90 percent of the homes in the path of the freeway. The first tunnel sewer was being installed and work had begun on three bridges in Royal Oak.

But the lawsuit filed by Lathrup Village and Pleasant Ridge stalled approval of plans for the freeway's design.

Impacts on the Detroit Zoo were to be minimized and recreation

areas in Pleasant Ridge would be replaced after construction.

"We're now observing the silver anniversary of nothing."

PEDESTRIAN walkways were proposed for areas where there are large orthodox Jewish communities.

Homeowners in the proposed path of I-696 have had their problems over the years. Few new buyers were interested in sparsely populated subdivisions near the highway's path.

Zoning disputes arose. Investors told the Southfield City Council they would purchase property in fringe areas only if it were rezoned to permit more lucrative land uses.

The long, long, winding road is finally a reality.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

The secret is out. We have the best selection of contemporary bar and counter stools in various finishes, fabrics and leather. All in stock for holiday enjoyment. Prices are take-with.

Reg \$155
Our Price \$99

Reg \$175
Our Price \$119

Reg \$140
Our Price \$95

Reg \$185
Our Price \$129

Exclusively at
OTHER PLACE

South End

818 N. Woodward in Royal Oak. Open Mon.-Fri. noon to 9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon to 5 p.m.

FOUR DAYS ONLY
DEC. 15-18

FRIDAY NOON - 12 PM
SATURDAY 10 AM - 10 PM
SUNDAY NOON - 9 PM
MONDAY NOON - 11 PM

100 STORES

COBO HALL

BUY TODAY - SOAK TONIGHT!

SPAS

AQUATECH SPAS

FREE BAHAMA VACATION WITH SELECTED PURCHASES

FINANCING AVAILABLE

COMPLETE SPAS FROM \$999

MANY MODELS & COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM

100 STORES **COBO HALL**
DEC. 15-18

PRESENT PERFECT: OUR SWEATER SALE BEGINS TODAY

TWO-PLY CASHMERE, 1/3 OFF*

The deluxe version of the luxury yarn: cashmere in a cable tunic, pale pink, banana, red or white. Originally* 225.00 NOW 149.99

More cashmere: mock turtle-necks, cabled tunics, cardigans and ribbed polos. Originally* 189.00 to 229.00 NOW 129.99 to 149.99

DECORATED, 1/3 TO 1/2 OFF*

Here, the embellished mock turtle-neck in wood-grain or nylon. Originally* 122.00 NOW 79.99

Find dozens more styles, all with holiday gala. Originally* 82.00 to 122.00 NOW 59.99 to 79.99

AN EXTRA PURE COTTON, 4000 TO 5000

Colorful, lightweight sweaters in lots of styles: sweat-shirts, tunics, mock turtle-necks and cardigans. A VERY SPECIAL PURCHASE

BONWIT TELLER FOR MEN

TWO-PLY CASHMERE, 30% OFF*

You'll see our pure cashmere see neck, in sensational colors. Originally* 235.00 NOW 159.99

And more: Italian merino wool turtle-necks, polos and high crews. Originally* 75.00 NOW 49.99

30% TO 50% OFF* selected sweaters from our designer and private label collections.

Sweaters and Bonwit Teller for Men, both on our Main Level.

BONWIT TELLER

*EXCLUDES SOME SPECIALS. *OFF ORIGINAL PRICES OF SELECTED MERCHANDISE. SEE SIGNAGE. THAT IN SOME INSTANCES, INTERMEDIATE PRICE REDUCTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRIOR TO THIS SALE. SALE THROUGH DECEMBER 24TH. CALL TO ORDER OR MAIL ORDER. NO CASH. NO PHONE ORDERS. CASH ONLY. CREDIT CARD: BONWIT TELLER CARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, VISA OR MASTERCARD.