

# Patterson's road concern — equity

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OAKLAND COUNTY EDITOR

The second shoe is yet to fall over Gov. John Engler's plan to rebuild Michigan roads and take over maintenance and repair of about 23,000 miles of county and local roads.

That shoe is expected to fall later this month at the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce Mackinac Conference. At that time, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is expected to discuss the issue of equity.



Gov. John Engler

luncheon meeting is \$20, but reservations were due Wednesday. A makeup session for commissioners unable to attend Monday is scheduled for Tuesday.

When Patterson talks of equity, he means dollars returned to the county, compared to taxes and fees sent to Lansing.

The message: We want our share. In his last three State of the County messages, Patterson has pointed out that, while Oakland is tops in taxes paid to the state, it ranks 79 out of 83 counties.

"What is missing," Patterson said in a recent press release, "is any guarantee that the tax dollars paid by Oakland County motorists will in fact be reinvested in Oakland County for the long overdue needed repairs."

Patterson is expected to provide what's missing in a counter

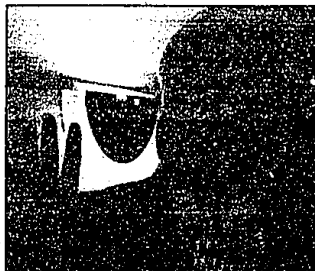
proposal, now being studied by his staff.

Engler is proposing that gasoline taxes be hiked four cents per gallon to 19 cents. Other fees would increase as, and the Michigan Department of Transportation would take over jurisdiction for many county roads.

The governor has set a deadline of July 1 for the new taxes to go into effect, not everyone is happy with the plan.

Despite his reservations about the plan, Patterson said he is withdrawing his plan for a petition drive to raise the gas tax, with added \$170 million in "revenue enhancements and efficiencies."

Patterson also credited the governor for "political courage by suggesting a bold plan to address the state's deteriorating road problems."



Seeking Equity: Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is meeting with staff to prepare a proposal that would ensure Gov. John Engler's road plan is equitable.

## Walk helps feed hungry

Lighthouse of Oakland County is celebrating 25 years service to the needy with the 15th annual Hunger Walk.

Walkers are needed for the event which helps provide emergency services to county families and senior citizens.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 17, and the walk

begins at 10 a.m. at Lighthouse, located on the corner of Orchard Lake Road and Williams Street in Pontiac. Donations can be made to Lighthouse of Oakland County, Inc., P.O. Box 430508, Pontiac, 48343.

For more information, call (248) 253-3717.

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