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out of pocket. Terrian explained a proposed widening of Inkster wouldn't be required in the project's first three years.

"That's a future obligation," he noted. "We feel our plan is fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. We're getting quite a bit of improvements for our money."

"This is very exciting," said Hills Mayor Nancy Bates. "We do support you."

Council supports

Terrian said in the past, Hills Councils had sent three resolutions of support on behalf of Southfield's interchange efforts. But this time the issue was not just one

of traffic congestion but of safety. A long gap in exits lengthens the response time of emergency crews from both cities to freeway accidents.

"It's more than just convenience," she said. "It's a safety issue."

During the next three years, Terrian said, road construction in both communities will cause motorists plenty of headaches. In addition to the interchange, Novi and western Highway 14 is being rehabilitated from Beck Road into Farmington Hills and the Oakland County Road Commission has plans to build "roundabouts" at intersections on the 14 Mile/Northwestern/Orchard

Lake area.

"It's with mixed joy, because I live at 11 Mile and Middlebelt, that I look at this construction," said councilwoman Vicki Barnett.

Representing MDOT, Roger Saffert told officials the long-awaited interchange is a "success story," with the state and city partnering to meet an important need. He said the collaboration would be used as a model for other partnerships in the future.

"We made fundamental changes in the way we do business," Saffert said. "This project will meet needs for current and future access to 696."

Snow Day from page A1

son and North high schools will still only attend half-day sessions Friday, as originally scheduled. Those youngsters will make up time later during the 2000-01 year, via reduction of several "delayed" starts or "X-blocks."

However, since each high school's schedule is slightly different from each other, principals will communicate with parents to explain what changes are needed to meet their required hours.

But although each high school has different scheduling needs, Superintendent Bob Maxfield said the three principals are working with the administration to make sure each building is making up the lost time the same way.

"We will coordinate all three high schools," Maxfield said this week.

The district and Farmington Education Association determined the best way to make up the lost school time would be by extending several scheduled half

days into full days, and not tack extra days onto the end of the year in June.

Parents also are being asked to consider three other potential make-up dates, those being scheduled half-days for Friday, March 23, Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8.

"It seems we were beginning to hear from parents, 'I hope you don't add on to the year in June' because they already have commitments," Maxfield said. "So we thought it was common sense to fill in the half days, at least as a good place to start."

Maxfield did note that more snow days are possible, which would likely require additional days in June. "Everybody understands that."

According to Sue Zurvalce, assistant superintendent of staff and community services for the district, "We sincerely hope that this will not inconvenience parents in any way, but at this time this appears to be the best solution."

The state of Michigan permits

public school districts two snow days per year. Additional days lost due to the weather must be made up.

Schools were closed three consecutive days Dec. 12-14.

Council offers finals break

Just in time to mark the end of final exams, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is sponsoring a "chill time" on Friday, Jan. 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile.

Mark the passage of mid-year madness by swimming, playing table tennis, shooting pool or basketball, dancing, watching movies and mingling with friends. There will be food, fun, and a do-jay.

The cost is \$5 and tickets will be available at the door. For more information, Farmington high schoolers can call 473-1841.

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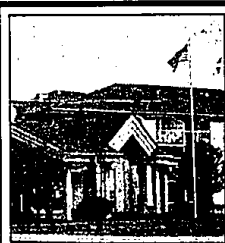
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