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M-15 may have four lanes State discussing change of Dixie area

by Mary Warner

M-15 may be in for some changes by the State Highway Department not foreseen in their original improvements program for 1975.

Highway Department spokesman Edward Boucher said the traffic and safety division is looking into the possibility of widening to four lanes 900 feet of highway north of US-10.

They are also looking into the possibility of adding a right-turn lane on M-15 for access onto Waldon Road, and the addition of a taper lane for access onto Laurelton on the east side of M-15.

Plans are not definite for the improvements, Boucher said, as funding for the additional improvements has not yet been authorized.

The State Highway Department will be letting bids in February of 1975 for the four-foot widening of M-15 from U.S. 10 up to the southern village limits; they will also be widening 2 feet on either side of the road just north of the village up to the pavement of I-75. And they plan to blacktop the whole portion of M-15, from the Dixie Highway north through Clarkston to I-75.

The changes, if made, will be done for safety reasons, according to Boucher, who said design engineers had surveyed the area and recommended the additional safety features.

The additional work might involve the acquisition by the state of additional rightaways, he said, but would only involve "a few feet here and there."

Boucher stressed that the project would not affect the status of M-15 within the village limits as far as changes in the number and width of lanes is concerned.

But according to Oakland County planning Commission District Coordinator Jeff Kaczmarek, the highway department "works in strange ways."

Kaczmarek said the county received a map from the highway department just recently showing the possible widening to five lanes on a portion of M-15.

Kaczmarek related to Clarkston Village Planning Commission that the map did show such a possibility, and

the group will be investigating the matter further.

Independence Township Supervisor Robert Vandermark also said that the highway department is prone to making decisions involving communities without contacting their local officials.

"It makes me mad that the highway department comes up with these plans, and they never consult local officials about what their plans are," he said.

Vandermark said there was no doubt

that some kind of improvements were needed south of the village to relieve the congestion generated by the many businesses in that area.

Village President Keith Hallman also said that something is needed to be done to relieve the traffic problem on M-15 south of the village. But he said all possible measures should be taken to circumvent any highway changes that may alter the old-style character of the village.

One of the ways to circumvent any widening of the residential area just north of the Clarkston business district, or prevent the abolition of parking on Main Street, was discussed by the Village Planning Commission on Monday.

They thought perhaps the recognition of Clarkston as an historical district might limit the amount of federal funds that could be spent for such changes.



One of her own, best customers, despite the threat of losing a tooth or two, is seven-year-old Sonya Stanley. The Marvin Stanley family of 10551 Davisburg Road, Springfield Township, is among those in the area selling home-grown apples to motorists taking color tours on these brisk autumn days.

Springfield asks liquor license control be local

The Springfield Township Board has adopted a resolution requesting state action to keep control of the issuance of SDD and SDM liquor licenses at the local level.

A recent court case has given the Michigan Liquor Control Commission basis for deciding that licensing is strictly in the state hands, Supervisor Claude Trim reported.

Apple honey

Pine Knob traffic due for review

Representatives of Independence Township, the Oakland County Road Commission and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department were expected to meet later this week with Wayne Nederlander of Pine Knob Music Theater in an effort to iron out traffic problems at the theater site.

"We're considering traffic signs,

signals and ordinances that might reduce the need for so many deputies at the site," said Independence Township Supervisor Robert Vandermark.

"We should have policies regulating theater performances that would be most effective in maintaining order and making it so the surrounding residents

can function reasonably through the summer months.

"I think we owe it to the theater owners and operators to come up with concrete proposals on which all the different governing bodies agree and which can be reasonably accomplished," he added.