

Foes Attack X-Way Route Once Again

**Design Engineer
Explains Changes
In Overton Park**

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Although the route of I-40 expressway through Overton Park has been decided, speakers at a hearing at City Hall today continued a fight to have the route changed.

The hearing in Council chambers was conducted by Henry Buckner, attorney for the Tennessee Highway Department. About 100 attended and were about evenly divided between pros and cons.

R. L. Iddens Jr., assistant design engineer, said the alignment of the east-west expressway through the park has been approved by the state, federal government and city of Memphis. He said the present hearing was in regard to changes in the elevation through the park.

IDDENS SAID the expressway would be depressed at McLean to go under McLean and would be depressed along the zoo to lessen noise which would disturb animals and to hide trucks going past.

Iddens said the grade would rise at about the present level of the busline at Lick Creek east of the zoo in order to go over the creek.

After crossing E. Parkway, the expressway will rise to go over Hollywood, Iddens said.

He said it will go over an industrial park at Cumberland and Scott. Iddens said the only access in the park area will be at E. Parkway. He said there will be three diamonds and a loop at E. Parkway to preserve the picnic area.

Iddens said there will be street separations at McLean, at the middle Overton Park Road east of the zoo where the road for cars will go over the expressway, and at Hollywood and Collins.

HE SAID there will be a pedestrian bridge over the expressway at the main zoo entrance and at Merton.

Tom Maxson, city engineer, said the hearing was

on the profile or elevation of the expressway only through the park and not the route. He said the city was concerned about the drainage around Lick Creek and a study was made and the present elevation through the park should prevent flooding of the expressway by the creek.

"We are in accord with the designing and think you have done a good job," Maxson said.

OPPONENTS OF the expressway going through the park were present and had signs against the expressway such as "329 wrecks on Memphis expressways" and "Atlanta jams and dams the city expressways."

Iddens said the expressway will vary from 250 to 300 feet from fence to fence through the Park. He said total acreage of the park being taken by the expressway will be 27.8 acres.

Ernest M. Dickersman, Knoxville, representing the Wilderness Society, urged tunneling beneath the park.

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