

OPE 21-10

# Overton Park Ruling Reaction Runs Gamut

By THOMAS BeVIER

Reaction to outgoing Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe's reported ruling in the Overton Park case last night ranged from bitter disappointment to near elation.

"I think it's terrific," said Mrs. Sunshine K. Snyder, a plaintiff in the suit to stop the expressway.

While some details of the ruling were not learned, Volpe's decision was regarded as a defeat for those who wanted the I-40 expressway built through the park.

Mayor Wyeth Chandler, who was part of a recent delegation from Memphis which visited Volpe, said, "It's a sad day.

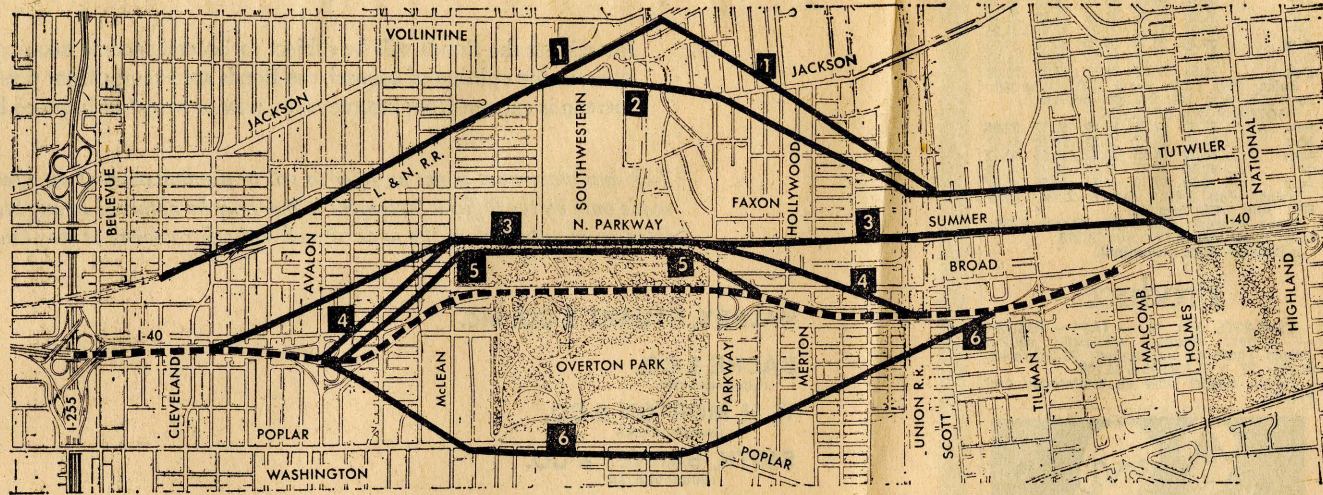
"If it could be built with state funds, I'd build it through Overton Park tomorrow," he said. "If the city had the funds, I'd pour concrete."

Previously, it has been generally conceded that without 90 per cent federal matching funds it would not be economically feasible for the state to build the highway.

Coincidentally, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, the organization, which, along with its predecessor, the Committee for the Preservation of Overton Park, has fought against the expressway since 1957, was meeting last night.

"This has caught us by surprise," said Mrs. Anona Stoner, secretary of the organization. The meeting was at her house at 192 Williford.

A reporter was at first barred from



## Overton Alternatives

Several routes that would send Interstate 40 either to the north or south of Overton Park have been proposed since the Department of Transportation ap-

proved a route through the park (broken line) in 1955. Transportation Secretary John Volpe's reported rejection yesterday of the partially depressed

the "private business meeting," but later was allowed to enter.

"We're all excited, but as yet we don't know what about," said the group's president, Dr. Arlo Smith. "All I want to say is if this is true, it is a rare example of the average man triumphing over City Hall. The victors are really the citizens of Memphis," said Mrs. William Deupree, the vice president.

The organization has contended

proved a route through the park (broken line) in 1955. Transportation Secretary John Volpe's reported rejection yesterday of the partially depressed

through the years that an expressway would destroy the character of the park.

Their Memphis attorney, Charles Newman, had not seen the ruling and so was cautious in his comments. "If it is true, I'm delighted," he said. "I think this demonstrates that government can be made to be responsive."

J. Alan Hanover, special counsel for the Tennessee Department of Transpor-

I-40 did not rule out a more expensive cut-and-fill system along the original proposed route.

—Staff Map

tation which had fought to locate the interstate through the park, declined comment until he has seen the ruling.

State Transportation Commissioner Robert Smith said Volpe is "taking the easy way out."

"I think it's going to be quite a delay and inconvenience," he said. He said he would consult with his attorneys before determining what further steps to take.

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