

Final OK Given To Speedup Plan On Expressways

Loeb Votes 'No'

Farris Gets Authorization To Contract With State

—Talks Eyed Today

CA 3-6-63
By E. W. BRODY

The City Commission approved Commissioner William W. Farris' expressway speedup plan on final reading yesterday by a 4-1 vote.

Mayor Henry Loeb, who dissented on two previous readings, again voted "no," but offered no comment. The commission action took less than a minute.

Commissioner Farris afterward said he may fly to Nashville today to confer with Highway Commissioner David Pack on the speedup program, and hopes to have "at least one segment under construction this year."

The ordinance adopted yesterday authorizes Commissioner Farris to contract with the state for accelerated construction of the north-south expressway from Central to the mid-town interchange, and the east-west expressway from the interchange to Second.

It provides for sale by the city of 3.3 million dollars in bonds this year, 6.7 million dollars worth next year, five million dollars worth in 1965 and 4.9 million dollars worth in 1966—a total of 19.9 million.

The money would be loaned to the state for purchase of rights of way for the two expressway segments, thus freeing state and Federal funds for construction of the roads.

It would be repaid in 1971 and 1972, as construction funds become available under the current schedule. Only cost to the city would be interest on the bond issues, estimated at \$1 million dollars. Commissioner Farris says this can be paid from other street construction funds.

Under the ordinance, the city would make the money available to the state as needed, rather than in a lump sum. The state probably would not undertake all phases of the work at the same time and payments to Nashville would, therefore, be spread over several years.

With action on the ordinance complete, Commissioner Farris said the next step will be meeting with the highway commissioner "to discuss the specific projects, amount of money needed, time involved, design, and other specifics."

This may be accomplished today.

A city bond issue will be necessary to finance the specific projects, and this will require another City Commission vote.

Timing of both the bond issue and the start of construction will depend on state highway plans and how this project will best fit into the state schedule, Commissioner Farris said.

The state's planning is most advanced on the section of the east-west between Second and Ayres, he said, and work may start first on this section.

Expressway Gets Traffic Baptism As Sole Sendoff

CA 1-1-63
There was no fanfare, just traffic as another section of expressway officially opened yesterday.

The section was from Walnut Grove to Poplar, which

originally was not scheduled to be turned over to the city until after Jan. 1.

Earlier, sections of the southeast circumferential had been opened between Poplar and the junction of Interstate 55, that runs into Mississippi.

With the opening of the Walnut Grove interchange, Memphians now have 11.5 miles of completed expressway on the southeast leg and 6.7 miles on the north-south expressway (Interstate 55) from Alcy to the Mississippi border.

The southeast leg was formally dedicated by city officials on Dec. 15.

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