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Mrs. Parks - Overton

City Beautiful Commission Sees Park Route as Scenic

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The City Beautiful Commission has restudied the proposal of an expressway through Overton Park and determined that it is needed to expeditiously handle traffic and can be land-locked into a scenic asset. Robert W. Shafer, com-

mission chairman, said her group "appreciates the concern" of the Citizens for the Preservation of Overton Park over plans to run the east-west leg of the expressway system through the park but, "It is the consensus of opinion that this route is justifiable

and will be made into a beautiful route into our city."

When the preservation group made its latest protest, the State Highway Commission agreed to restudy alternatives and is now appraising property both north and south of the park as possible routes. A report is due this month.

As far back as 1957, the commission was on record as "hoping" the route would not pass through the park. Mrs. Shafer said:

"All of us wish to preserve our parks and even increase them in numbers, but because of the increase in the number of cars on our streets and our desires to travel safely and quickly, we must arrive at some solution to our modern problems."

Present plans are to depress the expressway 10 feet below the level of the park. It would run just south of the zoo. Half of the exchange at E. Parkway would be situated on the eastern fringe of the park.

Both the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association favor passage of the roadway through the park. They recently urged the highway department to "get going."

The department expects to get into land acquisition next year. It hopes to have the roadway completed by 1970.

Who is Mrs. Robert W. Shafer?
Who is her husband?

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