

9-18-64

Mps. Parks Overton

X-Way Warning: Changes Costly

Pr. Sci 9-18-64
By CHARLES A. BROWN
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Tennessee Highway Commissioner David Pack said today that any deviation in the east-west leg of the expressway to keep it out of Overton Park would probably cost several million dollars.

Pack was in Memphis today to present Memphis Housing Authority a \$1,298,854 check for expressway right of way.

It was the largest single right-of-way transaction in Tennessee Highway Department history, said Pack.

TREMENDOUS

Speaking of the Overton Park route, Pack said the tremendous amount of money involved in rerouting the expressway could boil the Overton Park question down to a matter of having the leg go through the park—or not building it at all.

A study is still under way to see if plans to bisect the park can be changed.

Pack didn't commit himself on whether he favors the Overton Park route—he just emphasized the extra cost.

28 ACRES

The right-of-way purchase was for 28 acres in the downtown section needed to tie the expressway into the proposed new bridge across the Mississippi River. A major interchange on the expressway,

which would also form a northern termination point for the city's Wellington project, is to be constructed in the area sold today.

Expressway bridges over Second and Third will also be built in this section.

Memphis Housing Authority acquired the property over a period of several years in anticipation of the highway.

BOUNDARIES

The property is roughly bounded on the west by Second, on the north by N. Parkway, on the east by Lauderdale and on the south by Alabama.

MHA purchased the land from individual owners, then cleared it.

A group of citizens opposing the Overton Park route presented Pack with several resolutions.

CIVIC CLUBS

The principal one was one from the Memphis and Shelby County Council of Civic Clubs, which called for completion of the perimeter expressway before starting the east-west. The Council said traffic and other studies show there is not a need for the east-west leg, and it might never be needed.

PS 9-18-64

COSSITT LIBRARY
MEMPHIS, TENN.

Why did the money go to MHA?

Is Borda's "nose" clean?

He was with Firestone.