

Interestingly re amount of time "saved" (if any) by X-way.

10-14-66

New X-Way Segment Opened Officially

By CHARLES GOODMAN
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You can drive to downtown Memphis from the eastern city limits area in 24 minutes, with the route including an expressway segment newly opened today.

The new segment is an extension of the south perimeter route, from Third to S. Parkway. The 24-minute trip downtown was from Poplar and the Will Fowler Express-

way (I-240) to Hotel Sheraton-Peabody downtown, using the Fowler expressway and the new segment, then other streets.

It's seven miles longer than coming in on Poplar but faster and less hectic especially during rush hour traffic.

Commissioner David Pack this morning opened the new expressway segment 30 days ahead of schedule, with a

promise to try to get the perimeter expressway open to the public all the way to the bridge and Riverside Drive by the end of the year, weather permitting.

This reporter drove the route from Poplar to South Parkway, 15 miles in 13 minutes, with no lights or cross traffic to worry about. Speed limit is 75 mph.

From the South Parkway intersection the route on

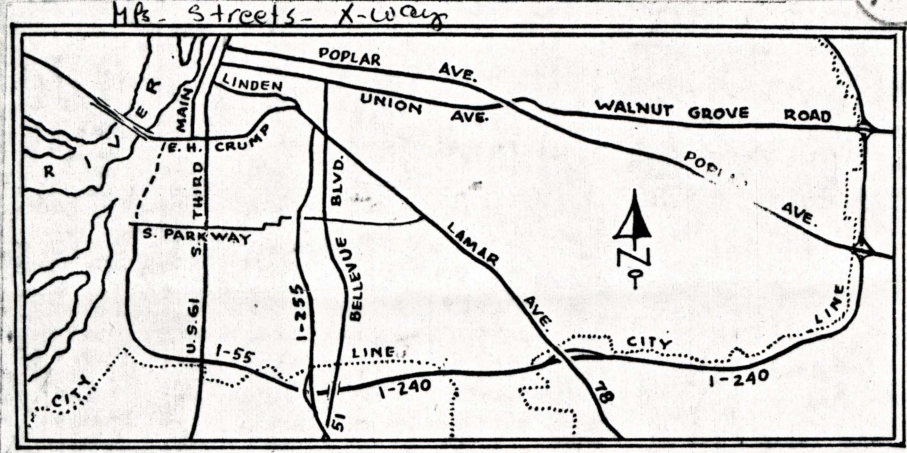
downtown was Florida, East McLemore and South Third to Hotel Sheraton-Peabody.

This was four miles and was made in 11 minutes, stopping at seven traffic lights.

Using the new route downtown, drivers can save about five minutes in time and avoid the many stops and starts for the 31 traffic lights on Poplar from the eastern circumferential to Main and Union.

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Via New Expressway Link To Downtown: 23 Minutes

From Poplar and the Will Fowler Expressway, you can get downtown in 23 minutes, by using the north-south expressway segment that was opened to Lamar today.

A Press-Scimitar reporter made the test.

It's one minute faster than the time it took a reporter last week to get from the same starting point to downtown by way of the newly opened southwest expressway around to S. Third by Riverside Park.

RECOMMENDATION

The times were so close that Commissioner Pete Sisson recommended that motorists consider continuing around the expressway to S. Parkway. That would lighten the prospect of traf-

fic jams at the Lamar inter-
change.

"We will have well over 18,000 cars a day dumping out of I-255 into Lamar which is already congested," Sisson said.

Sisson said Bellevue may turn out to be a faster route downtown than the expressway routes.

PROSPECT

"About 2,000 Bellevue cars a day are now using the new Will Fowler Expressway around to the South Parkway exit," said Sisson. "There will be another reduction of Bellevue traffic with the opening of the I-255 route to Lamar. Bellevue could become a real fast route."

One advantage to the Bellevue route might be economy. The reporter found

that he only got about 10 miles to the gallon at the expressway speed limit of 75 mph, in comparison to the 16 miles a gallon he usually gets in the city.

CHANGES

Major traffic pattern changes at the I-255 intersection with Lamar were outlined by Traffic Engineer Robert Fosnaugh.

Fosnaugh said the traffic light at the intersection of E. H. Crump, Somerville and Lamar will be taken down. Beginning tomorrow morning, traffic may not turn east off Somerville at the intersection. To go east on Lamar, drivers must turn off either on Pauline or East, before getting to Somerville, and onto Crump which leads east to the Lamar intersection.

Drivers west on Lamar may not turn south onto the expressway.

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