

MS 4008 1002

State Holding Up On Park X-Way

PSC 1130-129

State highway officials today are holding up on purchase of property through Overton Park for the east-west expressway until a new federal highway administrator is appointed.

H. D. Long, chief highway engineer for the department, said federal approval has never been given the latest set of plans for construction of Interstate 40 through the park.

Meanwhile, city councilmen continued to wrestle with the problem of relocating a fire station at East Parkway and Broad, across the street from Overton Park, which will be razed to make way for the expressway.

After learning that a 170-

by-176 foot tract is available on Parkway three blocks from the old station, Councilman Lewis Donelson said he will ask reconsideration of plans to relocate the fire station in the park.

Francis J. Brunner, of 280 East Parkway, said he is willing to sell his home to the city for \$37,000. He said he sent registered letters yesterday to Mayor Henry Loeb, Council Chairman Robert James and Mrs. Wells Awsumb, councilman from his district, offering the property.

Councilmen are to vote Tuesday on a resolution clearing the way for use of about an acre of park land on Parkway for a new station. Fire Department officials recommended the site.

Long said an earlier set of Overton Park expressway plans were approved at the federal level, but revisions were made when Lowell Bridwell, former federal

highway administrator, approved a plan to depress the route through the park.

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