

# Court Requests I-40 Alternates

Architect Harrover Asked  
To Present Ideas On  
Overton Route

Memphis architect Roy P. Harrover was asked by United States Dist. Judge Bailey Brown yesterday to testify in the Overton Park expressway hearing to offer alternative design proposals for the routing of Interstate 40 through the park.

Mr. Harrover had written Judge Brown Friday, saying he was prepared to present in court a number of compromise proposals which he says would minimize damage to the park and help overcome esthetic objections. The hearing begins Monday.

Mr. Harrover, president of the Memphis chapter of the American Institute of Architects, said yesterday, "I have prepared 10 alternatives, any of which would be an improvement over the design as it now stands.

"The first and least expensive proposal is simply to eliminate the 28-foot median strip between the six-lane highway and substitute a median wall similar to the barrier on Interstate 55 south of Crump."

Other proposals, he said, included construction of 18-foot retaining walls on both sides of the highway, thereby eliminating the necessity of sloping the land and saving a maximum width of 50 feet on each side. "And, the highway could be either partially or completely covered with a tunnel above ground.

"The more of the highway that is covered the less noise there will be in the park and the better it will look," he said. "The surface tunnel would be covered with dirt and cultivated with grass and other plants. Of course, the longer the tunnel, the more sophisticated the ventilation system would have to be and the more lighting would be required."

He said the last and most expensive proposal would be to "completely bury the highway and cover it with dirt." He did not estimate the cost of any of the 10 alternatives.

Requesting that Mr. Harrover be available to testify, Judge Brown said in a letter to him, "While it is difficult to say now, I would probably want to ask you to testify as a witness of the court if none of the parties desire to offer you as a witness. I would prefer, of course, that you testify as a witness offered by one of the parties."

"I would prefer to testify as a court witness," Mr. Harrover said, "because I'm taking a middle-of-the-road approach, and I don't want to appear partial to either side."

C.A.

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