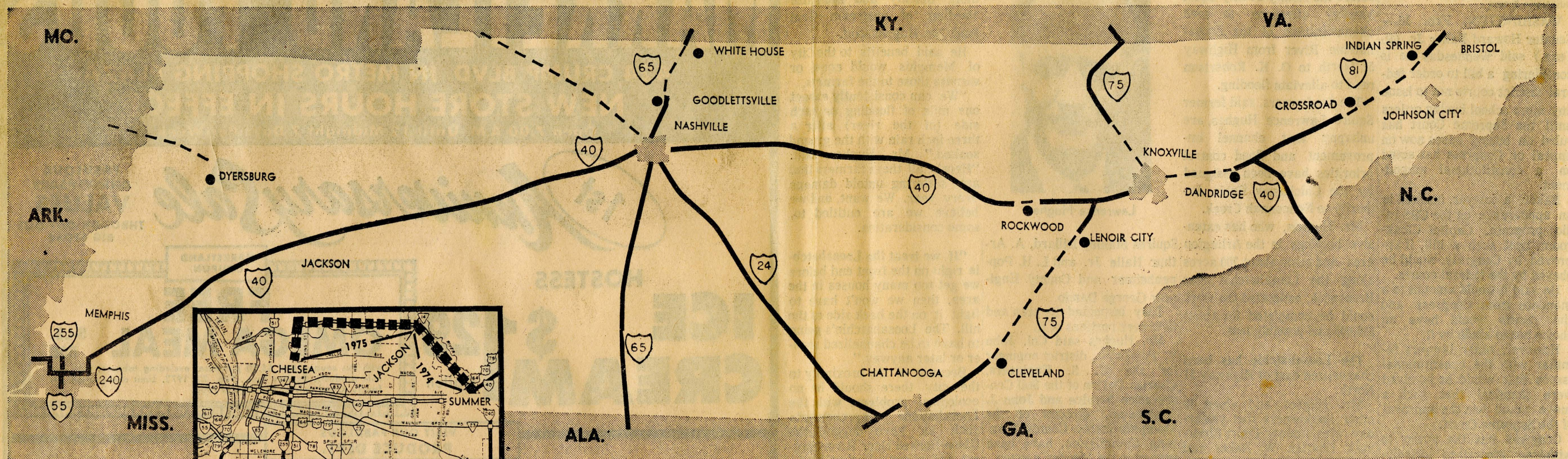


MEMPHIS, TENN., THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 17, 1972



Under Speedup Plan, All Uncompleted Interstate (Broken Line) Would Be Open In 1975

—Staff Map by Joe Sheridan

OPE 20-06

Memphians Applaud Dunn's Move To Hasten Interstate Completion

Gov. Winfield Dunn's proposal to accelerate interstate highway construction in Tennessee — including Memphis' northern circumferential route — with a 100-million-dollar bond issue won quick support in both Memphis and Nashville yesterday.

A group of Shelby County Democrats in the state House issued a statement saying: "Besides the direct benefit to the people of Shelby County, the taxpayers of Tennessee should save a considerable amount in increased construction costs by building this much-needed highway sooner."

"There is no reason why we in Memphis must wait until 1976 for this interstate (240) to be completed. We have the full support of Speaker James McKinney to speed this project up."

Memphians, led by Representatives Robert Hawks and Elbert Gill, both Democrats,

recently suggested the speedup to the governor.

It was the proposal to speed up construction of I-240 by about a year which generated the most interest in Memphis. Supporters of the plan argue that because the I-40 route through Overton Park has been stalled in the courts for years, completion of I-240 is needed quickly to handle the growing flow of traffic that will cross the new Mississippi River bridge in Memphis.

Edgar Cox, chairman of the Northern Perimeter Committee which has been working for the early completion of I-240, said the governor's plan "would be a tremendous improvement. It was our major intent to speed up completion (of I-240) to four years. This looks like it would better that schedule. I think I can speak for the committee in saying it tickles us to death."

The committee has been col-

lecting signatures on petitions that call for early action in the case.

Mr. Cox said he was particularly pleased to see that the governor has reversed his position of three weeks ago when he said he could do nothing but give us sympathy. It also allows Tennessee to remain progressive, which we so sorely need."

County Court Squire William W. Farris said, "This is a very good program — one that I suggested a few years ago. I think that the earliest possible completion time is desirable from cost and public use standpoints."

Mayor Wyeth Chandler praised the proposal saying, "Great! It should be done. We've got to finish our expressway." Completion of the interstate system "is probably as important as anything we can do."

(Additional Story on Page 1)