

OF-25-25

Press-Scimitar July 6, 1976

# State Ready to Submit Overton X-Way Plan

By WENDELL POTTER  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

HERSHEY, Pa. — Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton says he believes U.S. Secretary of Transportation William Coleman will accept the state's latest proposal for a "plaza-type, single-level depressed" expressway through Overton Park in Memphis.

That plan and its accompanying environment impact statement are to be presented to officials this week, state officials said.

Blanton, who is attending the 68th National Governors' Conference, said Coleman has indicated that he will not insist on the expensive cut-and-cover proposal he suggested several months ago for completing Interstate 40 and will give serious consideration to the less costly plaza-type plan.

The governor did not explain the proposal that will be submitted to the Secretary of Transportation, but it apparently is similar to a plan recommended some time ago by the Tennesseans for Better Transportation Committee.

A spokesman for the governor said later that the proposal and the statement are at the printers in Nashville and probably will be sent to the Department of Transportation in Washington late this week or early next week.

A DOT official said last Friday in Washington that Coleman is expecting both the proposal and the environmental impact statement, prepared by the Tennessee Transportation Department, no later than Friday.

Although Blanton declined to give details about the plaza-type proposal, which he said is his favorite proposal so far for completing the highway, he said it would be one of the least costly, would be practical, and would be the easiest to maintain of any plan that has been suggested and studied.

"We've been working day and night on this — practically round the clock," Blanton said of the incomplete segment of I-40. "We believe we have something now he (Coleman) will accept."

Even if Coleman accepts the depressed roadway design, there will still have to be public hearings, probably this summer. The Overton Park expressway leg also faces further resistance from environmentalist groups who oppose any loss of part of the park.

## TEMPERATURES

YESTERDAY		TODAY	
1 p.m.	83	1 a.m.	71
3 p.m.	83	3 a.m.	69
5 p.m.	84	5 a.m.	66
7 p.m.	81	7 a.m.	72
9 p.m.	76	9 a.m.	76
11 p.m.	73	11 a.m.	80
Midnight	72	Noon	82

Highest 85; Lowest 66