

CA OPE-26-47 Nov. 28, 1976

Pay As You Go (G, S)

To The Commercial Appeal:

It is obvious the proposed I-40 "plaza" design through Overton Park is a glorified rehash of the initial design which was advanced 20 years ago and subsequently rejected.

It appears that the only definitely feasible route through Overton Park is the cut and cover tunnel recommended by Transportation Secretary Coleman. Since the state of Tennessee "cannot afford" its share of the cost, perhaps a tunnel toll could be set up to pay the difference between what the state can afford and the actual cost of the tunnel.

Memphis would not be the first to consider a toll. Toll roads and bridges can be found in the progressive cities of New York, Richmond, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Francisco.

In effect, Memphis and east-west motorists have been paying a toll in wasted time, gasoline, accidents for the past 20 years without deriving the benefits. For those who insist on "free roads" they will still have the option of using the I-240 loop or side streets which will be far less crowded.

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