

OPE 20-43

CA Dec. 28, 1972

State Plans Hearing On I-240 Route

From The Commercial Appeal Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Dec. 27. — Construction of the long-planned northern circumferential expressway route in Memphis will move a step closer Jan. 4 when state highway officials conduct a public hearing on the key road link.

The hearing will begin at 1 p.m. in Room 1206 of the State Office Building in Memphis, according to Henry K. Buckner Jr., attorney for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Under discussion will be Interstate 240 from west of North Watkins to Bartlett Road. The corridor for the route was first recommended in a 1955 report.

It is anticipated that construction on the stretch, which will cost an estimated 54.8 million dollars, will begin in 1973.

The legislature has authorized funds to speed interstate construction, including the northern stretch in Shelby

County whose completion would help handle traffic that was expected to be managed by Interstate 40.

The completion of Interstate 40, however, has been stalled for years by litigants who protested its passing through Overton Park.

The northern expressway route will be six lanes wide and require a minimum right-of-way of 230 feet. A full directional interchange will connect it with federal-aid Route 101, which is known as the Northwest Freeway.

Other planned interchanges will include those at North Watkins, Hollywood, at an extension of Warford Road, at Jackson and at an extension of Covington Pike.

Buckner said the purpose of the hearing will be to provide data on general location and any alternate locations, major design features and their social, economic and environmental effects.

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