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## "Blanton Seeks Lawmakers' Aid On I-40 Ruling"

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## Blanton Seeks Lawmakers' Aid On I-40 Routing

From The Commercial Appeal Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Feb. 19. — Gov. Ray Blanton has appealed personally to Tennessee's congressional delegation to sponsor legislation that would allow completion of Interstate 40 through Overton Park in Memphis.

Blanton's office here said the chief executive met with Democratic and Republican members of the delegation in Washington and told them the Overton Park impasse is "a serious situation."

He pointed out that three secretaries

of the U.S. Transportation Department have failed to act on the project, and he said it is going to take legislative action to break through the park.

"You can do it by legislative authority," said Blanton, who is a three-term member of the U.S. House.

Blanton decided earlier this month to try the legislative approach to solving the problem. This method was suggested by Memphis attorney J. Alan Hanover, special counsel to the state Transportation Department.

Under terms of the proposed con-

gressional legislation, environmental considerations would be waived for the project, in much the same way the Alaska pipeline was approved over the objections of conservationists.

Blanton in his talk noted the partially depressed design favored by the state would have cost about \$3.5 million 12 to 15 years ago but now the price tag is nearly \$20 million. The state has said it would settle for cut-and-cover at a cost of more than \$178 million.