

Vehicle proposals expounded at EAC

By ROSE MARY TRAVERSO Staff Writer

An expanded shuttle-bus system, a renovated traffic signal system and an experimental dial-a-bus system were some of the proposals expounded at a forum of the local Environmental Action Council (EAC) Thursday evening.

Traffic congestion due to an ever-increasing student population have made the addition of more shuttle buses and a more extensive bus route desirable, said Charles Pinnell, the president of a local urban consulting firm and guest speaker.

Signals near the campus area should be adjusted to the new traffic conditions, he said.

The relocation of the railroad west of campus was also discussed by Pinnell. "The facility we have now offers no direct benefit to our locality but the land the railroad uses could be made into a new arteriole," he said. "What we are forced to live with are a very few arterioles which carry most of the traffic. Our community lacks the leadership to deal with the railroad problem."

The main concerns of the EAC include flood plain development controls, transportation, visual pollution and the proposed Millican Dam.

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"We are also interested in promoting more efficient transportation like bike paths and public transportation," said van Bavel.

A long-term concern of the EAC has been the proposed Millican Dam project on the Navasota River. EAC objections to the dam have continued for three years since it first questioned the reasons given by the Corps of Engineers and local groups for building the dam "at the taxpayers' expense."

"What still has not been shown is that it would be profitable to protect 20,000 to 30,000 acres downstream by flooding 100,000 acres or more upstream," said van Bavel. This area, a "biological museum," is now used for hunting and has the last natural-state lake in Texas, he added.

An EAC study of the environmental problems involved in the strip mining of lignite has been touched off by Dow Chemical's recent leasing of about 2,500 acres in

Brazos County for that purpose, van Bavel said.

The high arsenic content of Finfeather Lake and Municipal Lake has been a major concern for the EAC since its representatives testified in the Texas Water Quality Board suit against Penwalt Co. in Thursday evening.

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An EAC study of the environmental problems involved in the strip mining of lignite has been touched off by Dow Chemical's recent leasing of about 2,500 acres in

July. The company, which makes insecticides and defoliants, has allegedly emptied 200,000 to 300,000 pounds of arsenic into the lakes.

The EAC has supported TWQB's demands that Penwalt clean up the lake. The results of the July hearings have not been made public.

BVDC to discuss prenatal program

By ROXIE HEARN Staff Writer

The Executive Committee of the Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC) will review several applications for federal and state funding at its monthly meeting Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Comments of the committee will be submitted along with each of the applications to the appropriate agency, said Glenn J. Cook, executive director of BVDC.

A Brazos Valley Prenatal Program will be among proposals reviewed. The program, sponsored by the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, would provide health care for pregnant women of low income.

A prosecutor assistance program, also to be commented upon Thursday, would provide the District Attorney's office with an assistant legal prosecutor and an additional legal secretary with the aid of a Criminal Justice Grant.

A proposed park shelter and restroom facility for the city golf course in Navasota and a \$270,000 program including a 20-acre park and lake in Brenham are other items to be reviewed.

A technical equipment bid committee will be appointed by the group. This committee will make recommendations about cameras, crime kits and various types of technical equipment to be purchased under a recent criminal justice grant for the police departments in the BVDC's seven-county region.

Approval of members of a Regional Advisory Committee on Aging will be requested.

sions made in closed session last month. The closed session violated the Texas Open Meetings Law, said County Judge William R. Vance.

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