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Six C.S. streets to begin improvements next week

By STEVE GRAY
Contributing Editor



Construction of curbs and gutters on Sterling Street in southeast College Station is scheduled to begin next week under the Community Development Plan. Other city streets will also be renovated through the federal program.

Photo By Chris Svatek

Construction is scheduled to begin next week on the first of six street improvement projects to be funded under a six-year federal program totaling more than \$1.26 million.

Sterling Street in southeast College Station will be the first to be renovated under the Community Development Plan. The project is being allocated to the city through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plan is part of the Housing and Community Development Act passed into law by President Ford in August.

The program is a consolidation of previous federal programs, including Model Cities and Urban Renewal, that were aimed at improving the conditions of many of the nation's towns and cities.

City planner, said a city crew will install a six-inch water line along Sterling Street along with three fire hydrants.

Mayo said the city will also add curbs and gutters to help improve drainage in the area.

Richardson Street, one block north from Sterling, will be seal-coated using city funds. That street, which is not included in the renovation project, will be paved from Texas Avenue east to Lassie Street.

The other five streets to be improved, in order of priority over the next five years, are Park Place, Churchill, Southland, Avenue and Detroit.

Mayo said although the initial grant of \$200,000 was approved last October work has been delayed for a couple of reasons.

This is the first federal program that has been utilized in the city," Mayo said, "and I felt it would be better if we took it slow and worked out."

Mayo said another problem causing the delay was that HUD "kept rescheduling

things."

"They're feeling things out just like we are," he said.

Mayo said he had recently met with residents who live on the designated streets to explain the delay and "they seemed satisfied with my explanation."

In order to qualify for funding under the program, cities must conduct a series of neighborhood meetings to determine critical areas in need of renovation. The money must be used in low to middle income areas with low property values, dilapidated housing and unpaved streets, Mayo said.

Street priorities were listed and approved by residents after a series of neighborhood meetings and public hearings held last January and February.

The city applied to HUD for the initial grant after the meetings but final approval was delayed because the Environmental Protection Agency had to review the street improvement plans to insure that no serious

damage to the environment would occur, Mayo said.

Mayo pointed out that the city might have received more money but "we really don't have that many people living below poverty level in College Station, compared to other cities with similar populations."

He said the city will probably hire a subcontractor to complete work on the other five streets.

A breakdown of future proposed grant allocations is as follows (figures are approximate):

- 1976 - \$169,000.
- 1977 - \$257,000.
- 1978-80 - \$261,000 for each year.

Mayo said public hearings will be held Feb. 2 and 12 at city hall to consider the city's application for 1976 federal funds and to possibly change the list of priority streets.

He said the city hopes to complete renovation of at least two, possibly three streets in the coming year.

Democrats react to Ford speech

Party to ignore vetoes, Muskie says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats will ignore President Ford's veto threats and vote substantial new programs to provide jobs for the unemployed this year while keeping over-all federal spending within a strict ceiling, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie predicts.

Responding formally to President Ford's State of the Union speech, Muskie said Wednesday night that the federal budget must be balanced, but not before the economy regains its health.

He said it is clear that the federal government must supply far more stimulus to the economy than Ford is prepared to recommend in order to assure recovery.

The nationally televised speech marked the fourth time Muskie has been asked to present the Democratic response to a major address by a Republican president.

Muskie, chairman of the Senate's new Budget Committee, said the President is on

the wrong course when he says unemployment can be reduced significantly through granting more tax credits to corporations and with little or no direct government aid to those thrown out of work.

"The President says we cannot afford to help Americans find work," Muskie said. "I say that we as taxpayers cannot afford not to."

In his State of the Union speech on Monday night, Ford said the government cannot afford to create jobs for all who need them and that it can only create "conditions and incentives" for private business and industry to expand and create more jobs more quickly.

But Muskie said government can and must take a more active part.

He said Ford's minimal federal job-creating role will doom Americans to a 7 per cent jobless rate next year and for the rest of the decade. And he said that in turn will

lead to "staggering" unemployment compensation and welfare costs, sharply reduced tax revenues and unending budget deficits.

"Every million Americans out of work costs \$3 billion more in unemployment and welfare checks and \$14 billion in lost taxes. That means that today's unemployment costs us taxpayers more than \$65 billion a year," Muskie said.

In addition to a public service jobs plan creating some 300,000 new jobs, for teaching aides, hospital attendants, policemen and others, Muskie proposed a short-term public works program which he said would create still more jobs.

Muskie did not spell out details, provide cost estimates or indicate how such programs would be financed.

In other areas, Muskie sharply disagreed with Ford's support for continued U.S. arms aid in the Angolan civil war and said that disclosures of wrongdoing in the U.S. intelligence community have been as necessary as they have been inconvenient and embarrassing.

Millican funds in Ford budget

By JIM PETERS
Battalion City Editor

The last expected appropriation for the design of Millican Dam is included in President Ford's budget for the coming year.

The \$435,000 figure is included in the Army Corps of Engineer water projects for fiscal year 1977, under the category of advanced engineering and design.

Construction on the 55,000-acre reservoir would begin in 1978 "if it is determined that we have a feasible project," said Col. Charles Tracy, executive officer of the Fort Worth district of the Corps of Engineers.

This past year's funding for the Millican project was earmarked for a mineral survey of the fields of lignite coal which cover about 30 per cent of the reservoir site.

That study by the Bureau of Mines was requested by the cities of Bryan and College Station and should be completed by June, Tracy said.

"A lot hinges on the lignite question," he said. If useable deposits are found, they would be strip-mined, with the coal fueling a proposed \$300 million power plant to be

owned by the city of Bryan.

Construction on the reservoir would then be delayed a couple of years.

The reservoir project, which would be located about 10 miles east of College Station on the Navasota River, has encountered opposition from area landowners and environmental groups.

Besides the lignite question, the Environmental Action Council of Brazos County charges that the project would destroy the ecologically valuable Navasota River bottom which is one of the last "wild" rivers in the state.

They also contend that the benefits of the relatively shallow lake would not justify its \$200 million price tag.

The Corps of Engineers says the lake would provide flood control for the lower Brazos River and recreational facilities for this region. The Brazos River Authority holds the rights to the water sales and would pick up a third of the construction tab.

Public hearings will be held in April before Congress with final action on the budget request expected by September.

Frosh student dies by gunshot

A Texas A&M freshman student was found shot to death Wednesday morning near Hotard Hall.

The student, William M. Hale, a management major from Temple, was found by two students at 11:40. The body was found near the intersection of University Drive and Ashbury Street between the Northgate wall and the University Services Building.

University Police Chief O. L. Luther said a pistol found near the body was owned by Hale.

The 19-year old Hotard Hall resident was last seen around 11:30 Tuesday night by two or three students, said Luther. He said the shooting could have occurred anytime between Tuesday night and the next morning.

A ruling on Hale's death is awaiting an autopsy report.

Silver Taps for Hale will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at 10:30 p.m., said Toby Rives, assistant director of student affairs.

Hale's grandfather, Dr. Fred Hale is a Texas A&M professor emeritus of animal science.

Publications, legal advisor to request \$20,000 increase

By LEE ROY LESCHPER, JR.
Battalion Staff Writer

Student publications and the student legal advisor have each requested for fiscal year 1976-77 almost \$20,000 over their present student service fee allocations.

The Student Service Fee Allocation Committee is hearing fee requests through today from groups receiving student service fees.

Both student publications and legal advisor representatives will present those requests before the committee tonight.

Bob G. Rogers, student publications board chairman, requested a \$90,000 allocation Jan. 12 in a letter to Bill Flores, student government vice-president for finance. "75-76 fee allocation to student publications, used entirely for the Battalion, was \$70,000.

Primary reason for the increase is a 20 per cent increase in Battalion printing costs over last year's, Rogers said. Another increase of 10 per cent or more is expected for '76-77, he said.

"The increase in service fees would simply catch up with inflation and the increase in the student body," Rogers said.

"If the student body numbers 28,000, that would be a per student allocation of \$3.21 or just over 2 cents a copy for approximately 145 issues of the Battalion during the year," Rogers said in a letter accompanying the request.

The allocation would make up about 35 per cent of total projected student publications income for '76-77. The student fees are classified as circulation income, Rogers said.

"We know there's a lot of demand for the student service fees, so as long as we're getting by, we try not to be greedy," he said.

The \$90,000 requested would "allow us to go on at the same level we are now, but would provide nothing out of the ordinary," he said.

Asked if a smaller allocation would make cutbacks necessary, Rogers said expenses would then have to be cut where ever possible. He listed darkroom supplies, Battalion staff wages and printing expenses as areas where economizing might be necessary.

Student Legal Advisor Ken Robison has requested \$47,735 in '76-77 fee allocations for his office. That would be a 68 per cent increase over this year's budget of \$28,462.

The legal advisor's office is financed entirely through the service fee allocations.

Almost the entire increase Robison has proposed covers a \$19,203 increase in salaries. The increase would provide salaries for full-time lawyer and for an additional part time secretary. It would also provide a raise in Robison's salary.

A second lawyer in the office would make more individual attention and "more in the line of (legal) education programs" possible, Robison said.

Most time is now spent with individual student interviews, he said, and little time is left for paperwork, preparing letters in behalf of students, and legal education projects.

"I feel we're providing a valuable service to the students, if only in terms of legal fees," he said.

During the fall semester Robison interviewed 778 students. Many more received some form of help through the office without being interviewed, he said.

"Without the raise, I don't know what will happen," Robison said.

"I'm confident I can sell the student government people on the need for the increase," he said.

College Station offered new utilities contract

By JERRY NEEDHAM
Battalion Staff Writer

A College Station city council meeting will be held tonight at 7 in the city hall.

been submitted to College Station officials by Jan. 1, according to an interim rate schedule agreed to by the cities last summer.

The interim agreement was reached after a request by Bryan for a sizable increase in the rates paid by College Station to Bryan.

Bardell said the main problems that have been encountered in working out an agreement between the two cities are the establishment of a base rate for the price of utilities and the definition of a cost index for contract adjustments.

The present contract between the two cities was entered into in 1974 and expires in January 1979.

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THE FORECAST for Thursday is fair and warmer. Continued fair weather is expected Friday. The high today will be in the upper 60's. The expected low tonight will be in the lower 40's.

Birds

A flock of grackles breaks from the polo field at East Gate. Thousands of the black birds infest the area in late afternoon.

Photo Courtesy of Steve Goble, Aggieland Staff

