

## Local transportation options include high-speed railway

by Christine Mallon  
Battalion Staff  
Construction of a high speed railway that will run from Houston to Dallas with a bypass through Bryan-College Station will begin in early 1985, a Texas Railroad executive says.

Hal Cooper Jr., president of Texas Railroad Transportation Company, and three other Texas transportation experts addressed a group of about 70 Brazos County officials, residents and the local press at a luncheon sponsored by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce at Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan Thursday.

After visiting and researching high speed railway travel in Europe and Japan, Cooper came back to Texas and began plans for a similar system here. "Railroad transportation is the most economical and energy-saving mode of travel," Cooper said.

Cooper said Rock Island Railways has purchased land located about 20 miles away from this area where the railway will run.

The only negative aspect of the system, Cooper said, would be the safety hazard it may cause since the trains travel at an average speed of about 200 miles per hour. He added that precautions other than a normal railroad crossing signal would have to be used, but there are no alternative plans yet.

Cooper estimated that construction of such a railway would create 5,000 to 10,000 jobs for people around the Brazos Valley and surrounding areas and would increase tax revenues.

"Bryan-College Station would be the most affected city between the Houston to Dallas trip," Cooper said. He said a bypass through the twin cities and would be a major source of revenue.

Trains were not the only topic at issue Thursday. W.A. "Skip" Porter, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and former chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents' Airport Relocation Study Committee said the committee ended their study on Easternwood Airport by urging the University to work with the Regents on improving instead of relocating the airport.

Porter added that work will soon begin on resurfacing the main runway as the initial step toward improvement.

Local road improvements were also discussed at the luncheon. Carol Zeigler, district engineer for the Texas Highway Department, said that Bryan-College Station will receive about \$8 million worth of road repair within the next year.

Included in the repairs will be resurfacing and lane extension to FM 60, FM

2818, Highway 30, Villa Maria Rd., Holleman St. and construction of a new bridge over Highway 21's intersection at the Brazos River.

In other business, Ron Hale, executive vice president of First City Bank of Bryan, urged citizens to support a state gasoline tax increase that will be brought up at a special session of the state legislature.

Hale said Texas has more roads than any other state in the nation, yet has the lowest highway users tax. He said the budget for Texas highways is \$1.9 billion per year, but that Houston uses about \$1 billion of the allotment.

The state highway department receives 75 percent of the 5 cents gas tax. Hale said if the tax goes up to 10 cents per gallon, the state would be able to keep the highway growth compatible to the population growth.

## Bryan to begin street project

by Jamie Hataway  
Battalion Reporter  
The Bryan district of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation begins a \$1.6 million effort this fall, B.G. Bockman, supervising resident engineer, said Wednesday.

The 1983-86 Urban System Program will improve 269 miles of Texas urban streets and highways as part of a statewide program that will cost approximately \$246 million. Construction in Bryan includes improvements on FM 158, FM 2513 and Loop 507.

Bockman, who is in charge of design and construction of the Bryan projects, says plans are complete on FM 158. FM 158 will be widened to a four-lane road with curbs, gutters and a continuous left turn lane. Construction on FM 158 will extend from South Highway 6 to East Villa Maria Road where similar improvements are almost complete.

"We estimate it will go to contract this fall," Bockman said, meaning construction would begin in October or November. Improvement costs on the half mile section are estimated at \$462,000.

Bockman said that at a later date, development of Villa Maria to the downtown area will continue in an attempt to adequately connect South Highway 6 to downtown Bryan. Loop 507, also call Business 6, will be widened to a four-lane road with a continuous left turn lane.

"This is a bottleneck we've been needing to widen for some time," Bockman said. Business 6 is a four lane road until it intersects with FM 2518, where it then gradually nar-

rows to a two lane road. Plans are to widen it until it merges with South Highway 6.

"Planwork is underway at this time," Bockman said. Bids for the job will be taken sometime this winter, he said.

Estimated cost for the work which will involve a little more than two-thirds of a mile is \$880,371.

FM 2513, from Finfeather Road to FM 2818, will be the last of the three to undergo improvement, Bockman said. It has been proposed to widen the road to provide two 12-foot lanes with an 8-foot surfaced shoulder. Bockman indicated that no plan work has been initiated so a time schedule cannot be set for the beginning of construction.

Construction on that half-mile section is estimated to cost \$246,000.

Funds for the improvements come from the Federal Highway Administration and state and city funds. The Federal Highway Administration provides 80 percent of the funds and the remaining 20 percent is provided by state and city funds, Brockman said.

The City of Bryan is providing \$106,000 for the development of FM 158.

To determine the locations for improvement, Bockman said, a local transportation committee has periodic meetings to study and analyze problems in the area. The committee then makes a priority list to determine which areas will receive attention when funds become available, he said.

"We have a more than ample work load," Bockman said. "The need exceeds what we are able to do right now. It outweighs the funds and the work force."



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

### Parking lot accident

Randall A. Kok, a graduate student in Chemistry, explains his accident to Matt Menger, a member of the Texas A&M Emergency Care Team. Kok's moped was struck by a car in Parking Annex 50 Thursday afternoon.

## Latins kidnap man in McAllen

United Press International  
MCALLEN — Two Latin men armed with guns kidnaped a Mexican newspaper official with connections to his country's national oil company, police reported today.

Hector Hernandez Garcia, 48, was abducted at gunpoint from his luxurious, north-side condominium Thursday by two Latin men and driven away in his late model Mercury car, Lt. Gary Miller said.

"His wife and some friends were at the residence before he came home," he said. "They were being held by the suspects."

Miller declined to speculate whether the suspects were Mexican officials. An

official at the Hidalgo County sheriff's department said early today police believed the two men may have been Mexican authorities.

Police, who called the FBI for assistance, did not know if Garcia and the two suspects were still in the United States.

He said Garcia "runs a newspaper in Mexico and is connected with Pemex (the Mexican national oil firm) somehow."

Authorities were investigating the incident as an aggravated kidnapping, Miller said.

The closest border crossing into Mexico from McAllen is 10 miles south in the small community of Hidalgo.

### President 'mad as hell' at Soviets

## Reagan considering new sanctions

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Described by an aide as "mad as hell," President Reagan is said to be considering new sanctions against the Soviet Union for shooting down a Korean passenger plane.

An aide said perhaps the only effective sanction available, however, is a concerted allied effort to deny Moscow the ability to buy high technology items — but only those that have military applications.

National Security adviser William Clark told a leading conservative political activist Wednesday that step-by-step measures are under consideration to squeeze the Kremlin economically,

according to a high-ranking administration official. But the aide cautioned at the same time that a complete cutoff of technology would amount to "shooting ourselves in the foot."

Reagan has discounted any diplomatic or military sanctions against the Soviets, leaving symbolic gestures like a worldwide boycott of Soviet airline flights or a selective embargo of technological goods as the only alternatives.

Clark had an impromptu meeting with John Dolan, head of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, and Tryggvi McDonald, the 22-year-old son of Rep. Larry McDonald,

D-Ga., who was presumed killed when a Soviet fighter downed Korean Air Lines Flight 007 after it crossed Soviet air space last week.

The administration aide, who asked not to be named, said it is unlikely the United States would pressure American companies to stop selling modern technology to Russia. He did suggest the incident might spur U.S. allies to cooperate with previous administration efforts to cut off technology that has military applications.

"The president, as all of us were, I think, was mad as hell about this incident," the aide said. "He and all his advisers sought ways to get the Soviets

to admit what they had done and to provide restitution and to keep it from happening again."

Also, an administration official said some time after the Korean airliner was shot down transmissions were picked up and that "a person talking from a (Soviet) ground station was aware that a civilian airline had been shot down by them."

The New York Times Wednesday quoted an administration official saying "the United States had intercepted some 'chatter' by Soviet ground control crews that referred in an excited fashion to the possibility that a passenger plane had been brought down."

## Shultz denounces Soviet's attitude

United Press International  
MADRID, Spain — Secretary of State George Shultz said today the shooting down of a South Korean jumbo jet carrying 269 people showed the Soviet Union's "callous disregard for human life."

Shultz broadened his attack on the Soviets by blaming them for the division of Europe by force and for creating "real, basic obstacles" to security and cooperation.

"This is a system that fears foreign

radio broadcasts even more than it fears missiles," Shultz told the 35 nations attending the European Security Conference, ending today.

The speech concluded three days of sharp verbal battling with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who had spoken to the conference Wednesday and who left Madrid for Paris about 20 minutes before Shultz took the podium.

Following a private meeting with Gromyko for more than two hours Thursday, Shultz described the Soviet minister's attempt to justify shooting down the plane as "totally unacceptable" and "preposterous."

"From this rostrum, its foreign minister (Gromyko) shamelessly insisted that the Soviet Union would do so again, thus again demonstrating its callous disregard for human life," he said.

Shultz spent much of his three days in Madrid lining up support among the Europeans for sanctions against the Soviets in the field of civil aviation, to retaliate for the shooting down of the airliner and the refusal to apologize for the incident that killed 269 people, including a U.S. congressman and 60 other Americans.

Shultz dropped his usually placid style, openly showing his anger over what he considered to be the Soviets' cynical and brutal attitude toward human life.

NATO ministers called to an urgent meeting early today — with the exception of Greece and possibly France — decided to impose a two-week ban on flights to and from the Soviet Union beginning Sept. 15, diplomatic sources said.



staff photo by Brenda Davidson

### Time for some cosmetic surgery

The Systems Administration building gets a facelift. The structure has been undergoing repairs since the

beginning of the summer. Many other buildings around campus are being cleaned while the weather permits.

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### forecast

High today near 90, with a low tonight in the 70s. Cloudy weekend with a 60 percent chance of rain.