

Penn DOT, Centre County groups meet tomorrow

Compromise on bypass sought

By DAVE SHAFFER
Collegian Staff Writer

State Transportation officials will meet with local officials and citizens tomorrow to try to reach a compromise over the State College Bypass.

State Secretary of Transportation Jacob Kassab is among those expected to attend the meeting.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also will release studies made by an independent engineering firm concerning the interchange design of the proposed by-pass as it crosses the Benner Pike.

The by-pass, which has been in planning for over ten years, is designed to re-route traffic from Route 322. The two end sections were constructed in 1969, but the middle section has been a subject of contention between citizens, PennDOT and College Township officials.

At issue is the interchange design as the by-pass crosses Route 26 on the Benner Pike. The present design is a "trumpet" interchange with a long connector road rather than a simple exit ramp.

The bridge bringing the by-pass over the pike, as presently designed, would cross at a spot where the pike is already 40 feet off the ground. The

engineering firm has studied the feasibility of going under the Benner Pike.

Also at issue is the connector road to the University from the proposed middle section as it bends around the University toward North Atherton.

The University wants a road built from the by-pass to Park Avenue, which is in a residential area just North of Campus. A local citizens group, the Centre Citizens Council, wants the road to connect with Curtain Road, which runs through Campus.

The University claims the Curtain intersection would create high traffic volume

which would conflict with heavy pedestrian traffic on campus.

The Centre Citizens, on the other hand, oppose the Park Avenue connector because it runs into a residential area, while the Curtain road access would lead into planned University parking areas near Beaver Stadium.

The original PennDOT design favors a connector road into Park Avenue, but no final decision has been announced.

The by-pass has been a subject of controversy for the last ten years. In 1973 the Centre Citizens Council took a formal stand against some aspects of the by-pass design.

Besides a re-evaluation of the access route, the Centre Citizens also have asked the Centre Regional Trans-

portation Study, which is looking into future traffic trends, to make additional traffic analysis to determine if a four-lane by-pass is necessary.

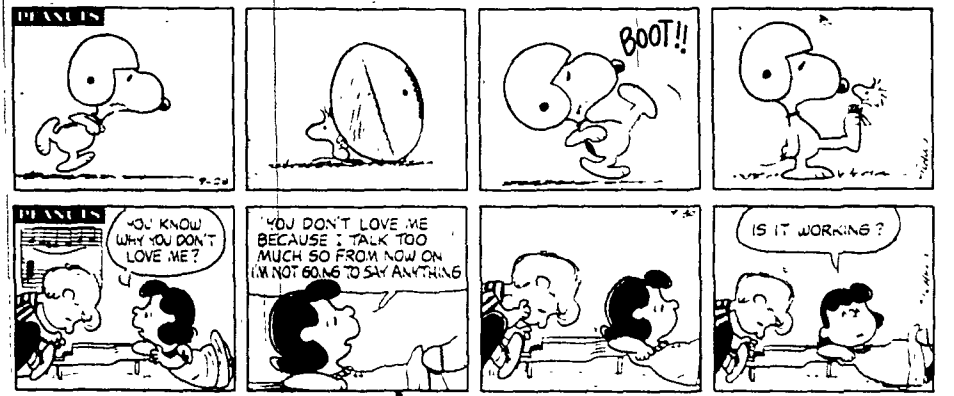
Whether some compromise will be worked out among local groups is "up to them and Kassab," said one PennDOT official Friday.

Bruce E. Speegle, district engineer for PennDOT, said he is optimistic about the meeting and hopes to see construction on the middle section begin next spring.

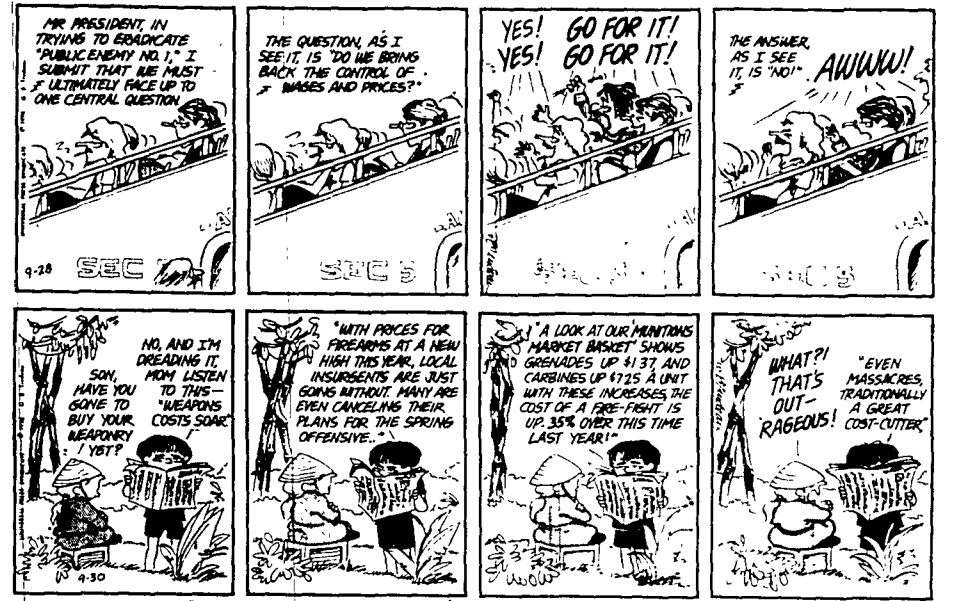
Richard Garner, president of Centre Citizens, said Friday he "anticipates the secretary will announce a decision Centre Citizens Council will support," and added he would attend the meeting.

"I don't think we'll get everything we want, but I don't think they'll get everything they want either," he said.

The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. tomorrow in the College Township municipal building.



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11 TABLES

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1 p.m. - 1 a.m. daily

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Paul Gromacki
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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
Monday, September 30

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sports: Women's field hockey, vs. Slippery Rock, 2:20 p.m.
Gamma Pi Epsilon program on "Addiction and Rehabilitation" by speakers from "On Drugs," 8 p.m., McElwain Hall piano lounge.

SEMINARS

Environmental Problem Solving, 8 p.m., Room 105 Forum. Mike Brill, architecture and environmental design, State University of New York at Buffalo, on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Systems but Were Afraid to Ask."
Plant Pathology, 9:45 a.m., Room 213 Buckhout. Richard Woodward on "The Symbion Theory: One Explanation of Mitochondria and Chloroplast Origin in the Eukaryotic Cell."
Biochemistry, 11:10 a.m., Room 101 Althouse. Thomas Smyth, entomology, on "Chemical Synapses - In Retrospect."

MEETINGS

Council of Exceptional Children, 7 p.m., Room 169 Willard.
OTIS, 6:30 p.m., Room 203 HUB.
Colloquy, 8:15 p.m., Room 203 HUB.

OFFICIAL

Preregistration deadline for Winter Term.
Deadline for filing Course Drops.
File for Pass-Fail.
Deadline for filing Course Repeat.

EXHIBITS

Museum of Art - Manayunk and Other Places: Francis Speight's paintings and drawings, Galleries A and C. Selections from the permanent collection, Gallery B. Free public tours Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.
Chambers Gallery - Jeanne Stevens-Sollmar, drawings and ceramics.
Kern Gallery - Bob and Susan Duncan, oil paintings, Pedgie Lawson, pottery.
Pattee Library - Central foyer, memorabilia of George Gilbert Pond.

(Items to be included in this calendar should be sent to Room 312 Old Main.)

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