
LETTERS

Freeway fiasco: A testament to the folly of man

Editor,

Thank you for the story about the U.S. 31 freeway fiasco. As a former road builder for 48 years, this has to be one of the largest (and most hidden) mistakes made by the state and federal highway departments in South-west Michigan.

First, they let a bunch of bug watchers stop the completion of the most needed interchange of I-94 and U.S. 31 10 years ago, at a cost of probably 20 percent of what it will cost today. Then they made a beautiful concrete interchange on Napier Avenue and paved about a mile or two of beautiful four-lane highway, a five-lane bridge, paved shoulders, grass medium, road signs and all — leading to a dead end, probably at a cost of \$30 million or so.

The good thing is that the 10-year-old dead-end section is in excellent shape and could be driven on today. I walked this entire section of unused road, and the only blemish I saw was a “package” left by a deer or a bear right in the middle of the concrete road. Was that a message to us stupid humans?

Let's put an end to the millions of dollars in wasted fuel and time, plus the ever-growing danger of semi trucks fitting into the auto traffic on the detour on Napier Avenue. As stated in your article, this detour, now 10 years old, is now carrying twice the traffic. In addition, the cars entering and exiting Lake Michigan College and mingling with all the semi traffic is a dangerous situation.

Of course, in addition, the I-94/Napier intersection continues to be a traffic jam getting worse every day. Can you think of what that “bypass” will look like if we ignore this for another five or 10 years?

I appreciate state Rep. Al Pscholka's encouragement, but don't forget these interstate roads are largely paid for by the feds, with participating state money. It sounds like the feds have trillions to spend anyway.

Jack Kinney
Benton Harbor

Keep close eye on your pets this Halloween

Editor,

During the Halloween season, please keep all pets indoors and do not let out unsupervised.

Not everyone celebrates Halloween humanely. Thank you.

Dr. Kathleen Murphy
St. Joseph