

Proposal possible on Cooper Street

The Cooper Street issue will be "coming to a head within the next month or two," according to Acting President Wendell Nedderman.

Administrators have been involved in negotiations with the Texas Highway Department, focusing on rerouting the street, but city officials have yet to become significantly involved in the question.

"This problem really hasn't gotten to the city council and the mayor yet," Dr. Nedderman said, adding that he expected it to be considered soon.

The city must approve plans for the street but is under no legal obligation to contribute to the project.

UT System regent Dan Williams said the problem is being "discussed and worked on."

"We haven't a plan suggested as yet, but I know work's being done on it and I would think we'd have a plan proposed pretty soon," he said.

As an interim measure, Nedderman had proposed a wire mesh fence down the center of Cooper with several openings for pedestrians to cross, but the highway department squashed that

proposal.

Administrators are pushing for a reroute of Cooper to the eastern edge of the campus, either down Pecan or Center streets. Nedderman said the highway department favors such a plan, with an estimated cost ranging from \$2 million to \$4 million.

However, Wayne Sherrell, director of traffic for the city, has said "there is no way the city could go along with the reroute as proposed by UTA."

Sherrell proposed a counter plan that would reroute Cooper toward the student center, thus bringing a four-to six-lane highway into what is now West Street.

The initial UTA proposal involved depression of Cooper with footbridges crossing it. Nedderman said he thinks this is "a very poor solution," disliking the idea of "looking down diesel truck smoke stacks."

One other plan mentioned was a 600-foot tunnel, but the acting president said this proposal has numerous disadvantages.

He cited a cost of about \$5 million and the recurring cost of ventilation and lighting.