

Cooper Street dilemma continues as city-school negotiations stalled

By Don Harrison
News Editor

Responsibility for further negotiations on Cooper Street is back in the laps of UTA administrators.

Late last semester, J. R. Stone, district manager of the Texas Highway Department, said he thought the

Pay hike

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grams in almost all areas," he said. "And the way state funding works, they just simply get more money per student per doctoral than we do at the undergraduate level.

"Hopefully, as our graduate programs grow this will help our salary situation."

Another factor in salary differences is that Austin receives a large amount of outside money in the form of federal and research grants.

Baker described some of UTA's money problems as "growing pains."

The legislature approves a two-year budget for state institutions, he said. The second year is essentially the same as the first and thus does not reflect growth which may have occurred.

"We have to find some way of absorbing the increased enrollment. That is, of course, one of the things that annual sessions of the legislature would perhaps correct.

"I'm actually very optimistic. I really do believe that with this growth we are experiencing we will be in a much better situation when we get our next appropriation."

talks had been moved to Austin, where UT regents might influence the Highway Department to go along with a reroute.

Now it appears the talks are back in town, and it's UTA's turn to reach agreement with the city. The city and the school are at an impasse over what should be done to eliminate the dangerous crossing.

Among the plans suggested were a tunnel, which raised expensive lighting and ventilation problems; a depression, which one UTA administrator described as resembling a six-lane "Grand Canyon," and two reroute proposals.

The school wants to reroute Cooper east to Pecan Street. However, Wayne Sherrell, Arlington's traffic and transportation coordinator, said the idea was out of the question.

He countered with an offer to reroute behind the Health Center and student center, rejoining original Cooper Street near the Abram intersection.

To counter that counter, Father Gerard Scholl, head of the University Catholic Community, was told by UTA he could proceed with plans for a Catholic student center at College and Border streets. The property is in the immediate vicinity of the city's proposed reroute.

Dudley Wetsel, vice president for business affairs, said he told Scholl to go ahead with the building plans but with "no guarantees."

"I made it clear that I didn't think we (UTA) would allow a reroute through there," said Wetsel. "However, at this stage of negotiations, I told him no proposal could really be ignored."

Wetsel said it was now up to UTA to begin negotiations with the city.

Asked if talks had begun yet, he replied: "They haven't."

"Everytime we try to speak with Mayor Vandergriff he is gone and everytime he calls back the same thing happens here."

Wetsel said Vandergriff has failed to show up at recent meetings when Cooper Street was discussed. Campus

administrators and Highway Department officials claim little expense would be incurred by the city in reroute construction.

However, before a state agency can begin work with a city's limits, the city's permission is needed.

Vandergriff has said he thought Arlington would consider taking on the cost of moving utility lines adjacent to Cooper Street if the depression project was approved.

No meetings are known to be scheduled with the city in the immediate future.