

Cooper negotiations underway

School, city officials study reroutes

By Laura Allen
Staff Writer

City-school negotiations on Cooper Street are proceeding with caution after months of stalled plans and counter plans for the busy highway that dissects the campus.

Mayor Tom Vandergriff has become involved for the first time, and President Wendell Nedderman appears optimistic that a rerouting agreement can be reached.

"I have visited with city officials,

including the mayor, and have looked at several possibilities on the Cooper Street problem," Dr. Nedderman said last week. "I'm hopeful that things will be coming to a head before long."

Vandergriff said the city has been evaluating "seven or eight alignments" of Cooper.

"We haven't completed our evaluations on those reroutes as yet," he said, "but we're certainly going to examine all the possibilities."

The school has favored rerouting

Cooper Street to the east, an idea which Wayne Sherrell, Arlington's traffic and transportation coordinator, said was out of the question. He countered with an offer to reroute behind the Health Center and student center, re-joining Cooper near the Abram intersection.

However, Father Gerard Scholl, head of the University Catholic Community, was told by the university he could proceed, with "no guarantees," with plans for a Catholic stu-

dent center at College and Border streets. The property is in the immediate vicinity of the city's proposed reroute.

Earlier plans included a tunnel, which raised expensive lighting and ventilation problems, and a depression.

"There will have to be some more discussion," Vandergriff said. "We're both quite concerned with Cooper Street in our overall street system, both north of the university and south of the university.

"We feel we have to work out a plan whereby through traffic can make its way across the city and at the same time not interfere with campus traffic."

"I'm sure the city will face an obligation," he said. "We'll just have to await the development of a mutually satisfactory plan."

Campus administrators and Texas Highway Department officials have claimed little expense would be incurred by the city. However, before a state agency can begin work within a city's limits, the city's permission is needed.