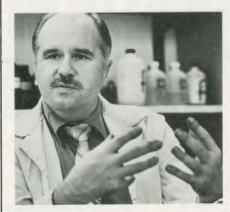




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Head football coach Chuck Curtis had little to from Bou Wits Jear as he and his coaching staff moved the Mavs in the right direction.

ON THE COVER: The Movin' Mavs were the comeback team of North Texas this year as they posted a 7-4 season under new head coach Chuck Curtis. Photo by Darrell Byers.

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INSIDE THE COVER: There were many high-spirited moments during the 1984 football season as the crowds and victories increased in number and UTA cheerleaders had plenty to shout

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Cooper Street saga 'depressing'

By Donna Darovich

Cooper Street.

The Arlington artery that has kept UTA students, faculty and staff sidestepping sideswipes for nearly 20 years is still a problem, and the solution, says architecture Dean George Wright, is depressing literally.

Wright contends that depressing the street six feet and building walkways over it would allows its estimated daily ration of 30,000 cars going, but not at the expense of

pedestrian safety.

Three persons have been struck by cars on the street since 1970, and although none was seriously injured, university Police Chief J.D. McGee says the situation remains "Very dangerous."

"It's phenomenal how few accidents we've had," McGee said.
"And it's going to get worse as auto and pedestrian traffic increases.'

University officials, Student Congress and faculty groups have discussed Cooper Street every year since 1971, but the parties that can make any solution a reality have not met formally since 1976.

They are the State Highway Department, which maintains the street because it is also FM 257, a state road; UTA, because its power lines run beneath the street and the city, which has a water main beneath Cooper.

"It's been studied to death," says UTA President Wendell Nedderman. ". . . A linear sore through

the heart of campus."

"It is an emotional, psychological and physical barrier to campus unification," he told students in October during his "State of the University" address.

"I will not die happy until we have a solution (to Cooper Street)."

The best solution, in Nedderman's view, is a total depression of the street, but that project could top \$13 million.

But Nedderman likes Wright's partial depression plan and says he sees the proposed walkways as being large, landscaped areas rather than just crossovers.



The City also is concerned about the traffic congestion, but primarily that caused by thousands of area teen-agers who have made Cooper a favorite cruising street.

The three parties agree on something — money is a prime obstacle to the solution.

UTA has had no dedicated source of funding for construction since 1978. All current construction and renovations were funded via the \$25 million UTA received from a 1982 special session of the Legislature.

PUF funds, available snce the Nov. 6 election, may help in

financing.

And neither Arlington nor the Highway Department say they can bear the cost alone.

Another wrinkle to the problem was added this summer. Cooper was widened to six lanes just north of Interstate 20, and a similar expansion is considered south of Interstate 30. A Cooper Street exit from I-30 and an interchange are also in the works.

Eventually, such expansions will make the four-lane bottleneck at UTA "a totally intolerable situation," Nedderman said.

Wright's partial depression addresses the city's concerns and calls for Cooper to be widened to six lanes — if the depression and walksways are included.

The often suggested solution of rerouting Cooper is out of the ques-

"There's no way we'd be willing to give up that facility," said Wayne Sherrell, Arlington Transportation Director. "And it's going to be even more important in the future."

But he says he supports UTA proposed improvements in prin-

Arlington Mayor Harold Patterson says he's ready to meet with UTA at any time concerning the problem. "UTA is a tremendous asset to the area," he said.

Nedderman says a solution meeting has been postponed for more than a decade because none of the parties can afford the work that might result.

"It's just a question of getting everything together," Nedderman

said.

Nedderman cites UTA's location in the Metroplex as one of its major drawing cards, and also often quips that the only thing he'd change is "to move all the campus to one side of Cooper or the other."

Political science Professor Allan Saxe takes the thought a step further. Perhaps, he muses, Cooper could stay as it is, and the entire campus could be depressed.