

MINUTES OF THE 434TH MEETING OF THE OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION

October 20, 1997

Pursuant to the bylaws, the Ohio Turnpike Commission met in regular session in the Administration Building at 682 Prospect Street, Berea, Ohio at 10:10 a.m. on October 20, 1997, with members of the staff: G. Alan Plain, Executive Director; Gino Zomparelli, General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director-External Services; Robert Arlow, Deputy Executive Director-Operations; Anthony A. DiPietro, Deputy Executive Director-Administration; Andrea Plassard, Acting Comptroller; David H. Ransbury, Chief Engineer; Sharon D. Isaac, Director of Toll Operations; Robert P. Barnett, Director of Information and Research; and others in attendance.

Present: Umberto P. Fedeli, Ruth Ann Leever, Marilyn R. Baker,
Earl W. Williams, Senator M. Ben Gaeth

Absent: Jerry Wray, Representative Richard A. Hodges

The Chairman said the minutes of the last Commission meeting of September 15, 1997, had been distributed to the Members for their comments, and he would accept a motion to adopt them without reading.

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mrs. Leever, Mrs. Baker, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the minutes stood approved with all Members present voting in the affirmative.

The Chairman said the meeting was the 434th meeting of the Commission. He said it was being held at the Commission's headquarters as provided for in the Commission's Code of Bylaws. He said Jerry Wray was unable to attend the meeting. He said Ms. Erin Raney of ODOT would be in attendance to represent Mr. Wray, but was not authorized to vote for him. (Ms. Raney arrived at 10:25 a.m.) He said Representative Hodges also could not attend the meeting.

The Chairman said there were a number of guests at the meeting and he would ask them to identify themselves as follows: Eric Erickson, The Ohio Company; Tom Travis and Fred McFall, Host Marriott; Captain Paul Ash, Ohio State Highway Patrol; Bobby Everhart, URS Greiner; John A. Peca, Climaco law firm; Bob Brown and Charlie Visconsi, Key Capital Markets; Frank Lamb, Huntington Trust; Larry McQuillin, ARCI; Stu Shear, Rehabilitation Services Commission; Dick Boylan, Boylan & Associates; Ken Marley, Hardee's Food Systems; Cleve Brooks, SBK Brooks; Alan Lininger, Sun Oil Company; Ryan Connors, Connors & Company, Inc.; Paul Sciria, Sciria & Associates; Stephen Szanto, Huntington Capital; Eric Carmichael, Pryor, McClendon, Counts; Heidi Jedel, I & R Department secretary; Matthew Stuczynski, National City Bank; Vince Chiarucci, business consultant; Margaret Koran, Ohio Sierra Club; Debbie Moore, Human Resources Manager; Paul Zappala, Data Processing Manager; Cassandra Thomas, MBE Coordinator; Bradley Flamon, Eco-City, Cleveland; Deb Janik, Key

Bank; Eric Carmichael, Pryor, McClendon, Counts; Anthony Palombo, Staff Counsel; Barbara Lesko, Executive Director's secretary; and Diane Pring, General Counsel's secretary.

The Chairman said various reports would then be received and the Commission would act on a number of resolutions, draft copies of which had been previously sent to the Members and updated drafts were in the Members' folders. He said the resolutions would be explained during the appropriate reports.

The Chairman said that if there were no questions, the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Baker would be received.

Mrs. Baker said that the following items had been sent to the Members since the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on September 15, 1997:

1. Weekly Traffic Statistics
2. Traffic Accident Summary for September 1997
3. Traffic and Revenue Report for September 1997
4. Financial Statement for September 1997
5. Draft of Commission Meeting Minutes of September 15, 1997
6. Investment Transactions September 1997
7. Copy of State Auditor's letter accepting 1996 OTC Comprehensive Financial report
8. **Turnpike Notes**, September 1997
9. Various News Releases

The Chairman said the report of the Secretary-Treasurer was accepted as offered. He said the report on Budget and Finance would be received.

Mrs. Baker said she had a resolution entitled a Resolution Adopting the Preliminary Budget for the year 1998 and providing for deposits required under the 1994 Master Trust Agreement during said year. She said it was important to remember that it was the preliminary and not the final budget. She said Andrea Plassard was available for any questions the Members might have for her. She asked Mrs. Plassard if there was anything she wanted to call to the attention of the Members.

Mrs. Plassard said the budget was preliminary and numbers had been compiled from all Commission departments for expenditures. She said the staff was proposing lowering the Commission's Renewal/Replacement funding requirement from last year from \$12 million to \$6 million. She said it was up for discussion and the staff would meet with the Chairman within that month or next.

The Chairman said that as he had for the last 5-6 years, he would sit down with each department head and have them review with him, line by line, their budget and typically they discussed eliminating certain things or cutting back and trying to be very sensitive to keep costs down as far as they could.

The Chairman said further that he would invite, as long as there was not any affect on the Sunshine Law, one other Commission Member to attend those meetings. He said that if any other Commission Member would like to be at those meetings, which had yet to be scheduled, he would like to be so informed.

The Chairman said he didn't have a problem with the preliminary budget, but the Commission had to review and make sure they looked at it. He said they took that stuff seriously.

Mr. Williams asked if the Commission was being asked to adopt the preliminary budget at that day's meeting. He asked if that was the usual procedure and when would the final budget be adopted.

Mr. Plain said the final budget would be adopted at the December meeting. He said they were looking at December 15 for that meeting.

Mr. Zomparelli said the Ohio Turnpike Act and the Trust Agreement concerning the Commission's bond issuance required that the Commission adopt a preliminary budget by November 15 and a final budget by the first of the following calendar year.

The Chairman said he would ask that within the next two weeks he would like to set a date to have each department head meet with Mr. Plain, Mr. Arlow, Mr. DiPietro and Mr. Zomparelli to talk about their individual budgets. He said he would let the other Commission Members know when those dates were and if another Member would like to be present, he would welcome that. He said that typically they spent probably a day or two to review the budgets with the department heads. He said they had to watch their costs.

A Resolution Adopting the Preliminary Budget for the Year 1998 and Providing for Deposits Required Under the 1994 Master Trust Agreement During Said Year was moved for adoption by Mrs. Leever, seconded by Mrs. Baker as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 51-1997

"WHEREAS, Section 5.01, Article V of the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement dated February 15, 1994, provides for the preparation of a preliminary budget for the ensuing fiscal year on or before November 15 in each year; and

"WHEREAS, the Commission's executive director and acting comptroller have prepared the preliminary budget for the year 1998 and have submitted same to the Commission for its review and consideration and have recommended the adoption thereof;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED that the Commission hereby adopts the following as its preliminary budget for the year 1998;

1998
Preliminary Budget of Revenues, Expenditures
and Deposits for Projects

	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Non- Pledged</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES	\$173,221,711	\$12,059,776	\$185,281,487
EXPENDITURES			
Administration & Insurance	\$ 19,645,131		
Total Administration & Insurance	\$ 19,645,131		
Maintenance of Roadway & Structures	\$ 20,983,144		
Services & Toll Operations	\$ 24,686,696		
Traffic Control, Safety & Patrol	<u>\$ 10,608,413</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 56,278,253		
TOTAL OPERATIONS, MAIN- TENANCE & ADMINISTRATION (OM&A)	\$ 75,923,384		
BOND INTEREST FUNDING	\$ 25,691,452		
BOND PRINCIPAL FUNDING	\$ 8,657,239		
RENEWAL & REPLACEMENT FUND REQUIREMENT	\$ 6,000,000		
TRANSFER TO SYSTEM PROJECTS FUND	\$ 56,949,636"		

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Leever, Mrs. Baker, Mr. Williams, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the resolution stood adopted with all Members present voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 51-1997.

The Chairman said the report on Budget and Finance was accepted as offered. He ascertained there would be no report on Audit/Legal or Service Plazas. He said the report on Employee Relations would be received.

Mr. DiPietro said that on October 1, the staff had a mediation session with a mediator appointed by SERB to discuss the part-time Toll Collector contract. He said they were at the mediation session for several hours. He said the mediator left and said it didn't appear to him

that there was much room for change and if they needed his services again, they should call him.

Mr. DiPietro said the staff had fielded a lot of correspondence and copies of correspondence that the union had filed with SERB. He said that in the interim, there had not been any action since that mediation meeting.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else in that area. He said the staff was still going out there and talking to employees and getting their ideas. He said he knew the newsletter was still going out on a monthly basis and he appreciated that.

The Chairman said he wanted to make sure the staff continued to talk to all employees and especially the Toll Collectors and make them customer service people. He said they could help the travelers. He asked how many meetings were conducted with the employees last year.

Mr. DiPietro said there were 16 meetings.

The Chairman said 16 different meetings were held and there was a cross-section of employees. He said the staff would schedule those for next year as well. He asked Mr. DiPietro if they got a lot of good ideas and input.

Mr. DiPietro said they did.

The Chairman said the report on Employee Relations was accepted as offered. He ascertained there would be no report from the Trustee, Captain Ash, or the General Consultant. He said the report of General Counsel would be received.

General Counsel said the only thing he wanted to report was that the Commission was scheduled to go to trial that Thursday, October 23, regarding a petition for appropriation that had been filed relating to the McDonnall property. He said that was the property the Commission appropriated to build the interchange at 3B (S.R. 109). He said that they had been unable to reach an agreement.

The Chairman asked if that was for the Archbold interchange.

Mr. Zomparelli said no, that it was for the Delta-Lyons Interchange. He said that he hoped that on the morning of October 23rd they could meet with the presiding judge and see if they could reach an agreement on the property. He said that if that did not happen then they would go to court. He said the only issue for trial was damages or the determination of the property's fair market value.

The Chairman told Mr. Zomparelli to let the Commission know what happened regarding the issue. He said the report of General Counsel was accepted as offered. He said the report of the Executive Director would be received.

Mr. Plain said he had four resolutions that he was going to recommend for adoption. He said he also would give the Members an update on the State Route 58 meeting that he had on Friday, October 17. He said he also would introduce Cassaundra Thomas, who would talk on the MBE Trade Show.

Mr. Plain said the first resolution was for Contract No. 43-97-01. He said that was for reconstruction of the Crystal Avenue bridge of the Turnpike at milepost 62.0 and the

reconstruction of the Detroit Avenue bridge over the Turnpike at milepost 62.3 in Lucas County, Ohio. He said there were four bids in response to the subject invitation. He said the low bid was submitted by the S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. for \$3,996,056.00. He said the bids ranged all the way up to a high of \$4,794,745.18.

Mr. Plain said further that the bid tabulation was attached to the Members' packets on the last page. He said the estimate was \$4,518,000, so once again they received good bids below the engineer's estimate. He said he would read the RESOLVED as follows:

"RESOLVED that the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio in the amount of \$3,996,056.00 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-01, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the vice-chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-01 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

The Chairman said he would abstain on the vote. He abstained from all voting pertaining to the Resolution Awarding Contract No. 43-97-01. He also did not participate in any discussion of such resolution.

A Resolution Awarding Contract No. 43-97-01 was moved for adoption by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Baker as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 52-1997

"WHEREAS, the Commission has duly advertised according to law for bids upon a contract for the reconstruction of the Crystal Avenue Bridge over the Ohio Turnpike at Milepost 62.0 and reconstruction of Detroit Avenue Bridge over the Ohio Turnpike at Milepost 62.3 located in Lucas County, Ohio;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has received bids from four bidders for the performance of said contract;

"WHEREAS, said bids have been reviewed and analyzed by the Commission's chief engineer, and he has submitted a report concerning such analysis and his report is before the Commission and the Commission's executive director has made his recommendation to the Commission predicated upon such analysis;

"WHEREAS, the Commission's minority business enterprise coordinator has reviewed the documents submitted by the bidders and has determined that there is satisfactory evidence of compliance with the Commission's Minority Business Enterprise Program;

"WHEREAS, all bids for said contract were solicited on the basis of the same terms and conditions and the same specifications, and the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio in the amount of \$3,996,056.00 for the performance of Contract No.

43-97-01 has been determined by the Commission to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised by its general counsel that said bid conforms to the requirements of Section 5537.07, Section 9.312 and Section 153.54, all of the Revised Code of Ohio, and that a performance bond with good and sufficient surety has been submitted by The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc.;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED that the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio, in the amount of \$3,996,056.00 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-01, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the vice-chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-01 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present, except the Chairman, responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Leever

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Fedeli

The Chairman declared the resolution stood adopted with all Members present, except him, voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 52-1997.

Mr. Plain said the next resolution he had was a Resolution Awarding Contract No. 43-97-02 for the reconstruction of the Maumee River bridges which included widening and rehabilitation of the substructure located in Lucas and Wood Counties, Ohio. He said these bridges, around 1,400 in length, were the second longest on the Turnpike and they would be widened for the addition of the third lane.

Mr. Plain said further that the bid tabulation was on the back page. He said there were three bids submitted and the low bid was submitted by the Mosser Construction Company of Fremont, Ohio for the total bid price of \$19,816,140.81. He said the high bid was submitted by Kiewit Construction Company at \$25,192,494.22. He said the engineer's estimate for the base bid, which was the bid being recommended, was \$20,310,000. He said the low bid was slightly below the base estimate. He said he would read the RESOLVED as follows:

"RESOLVED that the bid of Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, Ohio, in the amount of \$19,816,140.81 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-02, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of

said contract, and is accepted, and that the chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-02 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A Resolution Awarding Contract No. 43-97-02 was moved for adoption by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mrs. Leever as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 53-1997

"WHEREAS, the Commission has duly advertised according to law for bids upon a contract for the reconstruction of the Maumee River Bridge, which includes widening and rehabilitation of the substructure located in Lucas and Wood Counties, Ohio;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has received bids from three bidders for the performance of said contract;

"WHEREAS, said bids have been reviewed and analyzed by the Commission's chief engineer, and he has submitted a report concerning such analysis and his report is before the Commission and the Commission's executive director has made his recommendation to the Commission predicated upon such analysis;

"WHEREAS, the Commission's minority business enterprise coordinator has reviewed the documents submitted by the bidders and has determined that there is satisfactory evidence of compliance with the Commission's Minority Business Enterprise Program;

"WHEREAS, all bids for said contract were solicited on the basis of the same terms and conditions and the same specifications, and the bid of Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, Ohio in the amount of \$19,816,140.81 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-02 has been determined by the Commission to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised by its general counsel that said bid conforms to the requirements of Section 5537.07, Section 9.312 and Section 153.54, all of the Revised Code of Ohio, and that a performance bond with good and sufficient surety has been submitted by Mosser Construction, Inc.;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED that the bid of Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, Ohio, in the amount of \$19,816,140.81 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-02, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when

appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-02 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Leever, Mr. Williams, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the resolution stood adopted with all Members present voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 53-1997.

Mr. Plain said the third resolution was a Resolution Awarding Contract No. 43-97-14 for third lane construction from milepost 185.32 to milepost 187.43 which includes the widening of the Tinkers Creek bridges at milepost 185.6, just west of Exit 13, and the widening of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad bridges, milepost 186.0, located in Summit and Portage Counties, Ohio.

Mr. Plain said further that there was a lot of activity on that particular bid. He said seven bidders responded to the invitation and the bids ranged from about \$9.4 million to \$11.5 million. He said the estimate for the total base bid was \$10,659,000. He said the low bid was submitted by The Ruhlin Company in the total amount of \$9,426,881.18. He said that, again, the low bid was below the engineer's estimate and the Members could see how competitive those bids were by the amounts of money being dealt with.

Mr. Plain said he would read the RESOLVED as follows:

'RESOLVED that the bid of The Ruhlin Company of Sharon Center, Ohio in the amount of \$9,426,881.18 for the performance of Contract No. 49-97-14, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract;

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-14 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A Resolution to Award Contract No. 43-97-14 was moved for adoption by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Leever as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 54-1997

"WHEREAS, the Commission has duly advertised according to law for bids upon a contract for third-lane construction from Milepost 185.32 to Milepost 187.43, which includes the widening of Tinkers Creek Bridge, Milepost 185.6, and the widening of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad Bridges, Milepost 186.0 located in Summit and Portage Counties, Ohio;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has received bids from seven bidders for the performance of said contract;

"WHEREAS, said bids have been reviewed and analyzed by the Commission's chief engineer, and he has submitted a report concerning such analysis and his report is before the Commission and the Commission's executive director has made his recommendation to the Commission predicated upon such analysis;

"WHEREAS, the Commission's minority business enterprise coordinator has reviewed the documents submitted by the bidders and has determined that there is satisfactory evidence of compliance with the Commission's Minority Business Enterprise Program;

"WHEREAS, all bids for said contract were solicited on the basis of the same terms and conditions and the same specifications, and the bid of The Ruhlin Company of Sharon Center, Ohio in the amount of \$9,426,881.18 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-14 has been determined by the Commission to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised by its general counsel that said bid conforms to the requirements of Section 5537.07, Section 9.312 and Section 153.54, all of the Revised Code of Ohio, and that a performance bond with good and sufficient surety has been submitted by The Ruhlin Company;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED that the bid of The Ruhlin Company of Sharon Center, Ohio, in the amount of \$9,426,881.18 for the performance of Contract No. 43-97-14, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 43-97-14 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mrs. Leever, Mrs. Baker, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the resolution stood adopted with all Members present voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 54-1997.

Mr. Plain said the final resolution was a Resolution to Award Contract No. 77-97-08. He said it was for third lane construction which included grading, drainage, paving, widening and deck replacement of the steel bridges from milepost 86.17 to 91.21 located in Sandusky County, Ohio.

Mr. Plain said further that the Commission received three bids in response to the invitation. He said the bids ranged from a low of \$19,305,938.68 to a high of \$20,480,522.96. He said the estimate of the base bid was \$21,765,000. He said that, so again, all the bids were under the engineer's estimate. He said he thought excellent bids had been received and he would read the RESOLVED as follows:

"RESOLVED that the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio, in the amount of \$19,305,938.68 for the performance of Contract No. 77-97-08, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the vice-chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 77-97-08 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

A Resolution Awarding Contract No. 77-97-08 was moved for adoption by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Williams as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 55-1997

"WHEREAS, the Commission has duly advertised according to law for bids upon a contract for third-lane construction, which includes grading, drainage, paving, widening and deck replacement of steel bridges, from Milepost 86.17 to Milepost 91.21 located in Sandusky County, Ohio;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has received bids from three bidders for the performance of said contract;

"WHEREAS, said bids have been reviewed and analyzed by the Commission's chief engineer, and he has submitted a report concerning such analysis and his report is before the Commission and the Commission's executive director has made his recommendation to the Commission predicated upon such analysis;

"WHEREAS, the Commission's minority business enterprise coordinator has reviewed the documents submitted by the bidders and has determined that there is satisfactory evidence of compliance with the Commission's Minority Business Enterprise Program;

"WHEREAS, all bids for said contract were solicited on the basis of the same terms and conditions and the same specifications, and the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio in the amount of \$19,305,938.68 for the performance of Contract No. 77-97-08 has been determined by the Commission to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received;

"WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised by its general counsel that said bid conforms to the requirements of Section 5537.07, Section 9.312 and Section 153.54, all of the Revised Code of Ohio, and that a performance bond with good and sufficient surety has been submitted by The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc.;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED that the bid of The S. E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio, in the amount of \$19,305,938.68 for the performance of Contract No. 77-97-08, is, and is by the Commission, determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid received for the performance of said contract, and is accepted, and that the vice-chairperson and executive director, or either of them, hereby is authorized (1) to execute a contract with said successful bidder in the form heretofore prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the aforesaid bid; (2) to direct the return to the other bidders of their bid security, when appropriate, and (3) to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and of said contract; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED that Project No. 77-97-08 is designated a System Project under the Commission's 1994 Master Trust Agreement."

Mr. Williams said that, although he had utmost confidence in the Commission's MBE coordinator, he would like to request that since S. E. Johnson Companies got a number of contracts from the Commission, and he thought that was fortunate for the Commission, he would like to see a breakdown on their minority business activities. He said he requested a report sometime in the future on that particular company.

Mrs. Thomas asked if Mr. Williams wanted it for calendar year 1997.

Mr. Williams said that just for the last six months of 1997 would be all right. He said he didn't want to make it complicated.

Mr. Plain said that could be done.

The Chairman said he would abstain on the vote. He abstained from all voting pertaining to the Resolution Awarding Contract No. 77-97-08. He also did not participate in any discussion of such resolution.

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present, except Mr. Fedeli, responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Baker, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Leever

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Fedeli

The Chairman declared the resolution stood adopted with all Members present, except him, voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 55-1997.

Mr. Plain said that was all the resolutions he had to present. He said he did want to report back to the Commission that on Friday, October 17, 1997, at the Holiday Inn north of the Lorain-Elyria (No. 8) Interchange, he had a meeting with all the interested parties regarding the State Route 58 interchange.

Mr. Plain said further that the Commission had been talking about building a Turnpike interchange at S. R. 58 for a number of years and trying to get it off the ground. He said alternate plans had been developed to try to accommodate the railroad and the interchange, which was what he thought all the officials in that particular area were in favor of.

Mr. Plain said further that in attendance were State Senator Zaleski, Representative Bender, and Mayor Kozura of Lorain, a former State Representative in that area. He said also on hand were Lorain County Commissioners Betty Blair and Michael Ross, representatives from the Ohio Rail Commission and the Chamber of Commerce from Lorain County, as well as a number of business people from the community. He said that, additionally, there was a reporter from the Lorain Journal at the meeting.

Mr. Plain said further that it was an open forum where he said the Commission would like to get moving on the project. He said the Commission had directed him to establish a deadline for getting construction underway. He said he told those in attendance that his letter to them set a deadline of December 15th, which coincided with the scheduled Commission meeting.

Mr. Plain said further that what he really asked was that the County and the Rail Association give the Commission a resolution or something in writing indicating their willingness to reimburse us for the additional costs to redesign the interchange. He said it had to be something formal so that the Commission would go ahead and get on with the design to accommodate the railroad and, hopefully, start construction probably in the summer of 1998.

Mr. Plain said further that he asked the Representative and Senator to speak and gave everybody an opportunity to talk about the interchange. He said the mood of the meeting was very favorable and even Senator Zaleski complimented the Commission on coming out and meeting with the public and representatives. He said Vice Chairperson Ruth Ann Leever was present and perhaps she would like to add something.

Mrs. Leever said she agreed with Mr. Plain that she didn't believe there was anyone there that was against the project. She said they obviously wanted it to go forward and she thought it was imperative that the Commission stick to the timetable of December 15 and make a decision and do it. She said she thought local officials needed the established deadline.

Mrs. Leever said further that it was an excellent gathering in that it was an open forum and anyone could say anything that they wanted to say. She said it appeared that everyone was willing to work together to get this project going.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Leever if she saw any possibility of the railroad people acquiring the money from either from Lorain County or any other source.

Mrs. Leever said they made a point of saying they came to the table with some money at an earlier date and so, hopefully, they will do it again.

The Chairman said he agreed with Mrs. Leever and Mr. Plain that it was good to establish December 15 as the deadline. He said the Commission had been talking about the interchange for at least three years or longer. He said the Commission had built so many new interchanges since then that had already been opened.

The Chairman said further that he thought the Commission needed to say that December 15th was the deadline. He said that if the railroad association could come up with the money, then the Commission would be happy to work with them. He said that, if not, then they would start construction on the original design in the spring. He said Mr. Arlow told him that additional time would be needed if new engineering designs were required in preparation for spring construction.

Mr. Plain said that he thought what they were really afraid of was a situation like the proposed interchange with State Route 11 where there was so much opposition and the Commission decided not to build it. He said there appeared to be some concern that the Commission might do the same thing at the S. R. 58 location. He said they were pretty united that they needed this interchange.

The Chairman asked if representatives from Kobe Steel were at the meeting.

Mr. Plain said they did not attend the meeting. He said he sent a letter to George Manos from Kobe Steel, but he had not heard from them.

The Chairman said he remembered receiving a letter a few years back from Kobe Steel asking the Commission to work with the railroad and how important it was. He said the Commission asked for Kobe's participation and didn't receive any and they were not at the meeting.

Mr. Plain said that, unlike the problems encountered in building the Baumhart Road interchange, there were nothing but favorable comments received for the S. R. 58 interchange. He said there were people from the Governor's office there indicating that they had attracted two new commercial enterprises in the commercial development just south of the Lorain Ford Motor Co. plant. He said the whole area had been very active and from the figures that were available the traffic had been picking up.

The Chairman said that there had been almost no opposition to speak of concerning the interchange. He said the problem the Commission had was trying to co-exist with the railroad. He said that December 15th was the deadline so maybe they ought to send an official note.

Mr. Plain said he would continue to be in contact with those people and give the Members an update at the next Commission meeting.

The Chairman said they wanted to make it official that they knew the Commission's position and they were communicating with all the parties involved. He said he wanted it made very clear on what the Commission was planning on doing so no one could say they were not given ample notice over the last three years.

Mr. Plain said the other thing he wanted was to have Cassandra Thomas, who was doing an outstanding job, to talk about the Corporate Matchmaker Luncheon and Trade Show arranged by the Commission.

The Chairman said it was a great format and he was talking to Mr. Williams the day before the meeting and told him how impressed he was with the format. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the event.

Mrs. Thomas said she was real excited about the trade show. She said that, as the Members knew, the Commission had implemented a 10% minority participation on all dollars that were over \$10,000. She said one of the goals of the Minority Business Enterprise Department was to try to put majority companies who did work with the Commission in touch with minority-owned firms so that they might accomplish joint ventures on the Turnpike.

Mrs. Thomas said further that an obstacle she faced was that the majority companies told her they did not have a forum where they could meet the minority companies and minority companies were saying the same thing. She said what was decided was to try to have a forum which could facilitate a networking opportunity.

Mrs. Thomas said further that the event would be held on October 29 at Cleveland State University's Joseph E. Cole Center for Continuing Education. She said the luncheon would be from noon to 1:00 p.m. and Mr. Plain would be the keynote speaker. She said that the trade show would run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Thomas said further that the trade show was a little different in that only minority companies would be allowed to have booths. She said she had a tremendous response and to date they had 22 corporate sponsors. She said they also had 35 minority companies that would have booths at the show, with 307 luncheon tickets sold.

Mrs. Thomas said further that she had received a letter from the Attorney General's office thanking the Commission for doing a good job. She said she had received notification from the Governor's office that he would be attending, as well as his Minority Coordinator, Melanie Mitchell. She said that if anyone in the meeting room was interested in being a corporate sponsor or attending the luncheon, they should see her after the meeting.

Mrs. Thomas said also that she had a monthly report which summarized the breakdown of minority participation of companies awarded Turnpike construction contracts since the beginning of the year. She said she would give a copy of the report to Mr. Williams, who had requested a minority breakdown for The S. E., Johnson Companies, Inc. She said that if anyone else wanted a copy they could get them from her.

Mrs. Thomas said further that the Commission was well over the 10% goal. She said that to date about \$44 million in agreements for products or services had been awarded to minority companies in the 1997 calendar year.

The Chairman asked what format was used to let people know about the luncheon and trade show. He said he was concerned that a week or two after the event, companies might say they were not notified.

Mrs. Thomas said that to be fair and equitable they merged the Purchasing bidder's list, anyone who had signed up to be a bidder with the Commission, with the list of all the minority companies that were certified with the Commission, as well as people who were pending certification. She said they were all sent a formal invitation in the mail.

The Chairman asked what about people who have not participated in the past but maybe would be open to do so. He asked how do we let them know.

Mrs. Thomas said she had been working with Mr. Barnett and they were getting ready to do a press release. She said they would be notifying the large papers in the state.

Mr. Plain said they also sent out mailings to the legislators all along the Turnpike and put announcements in the Gongwer and Hanna reports.

The Chairman said that in the press release, hopefully, they would get enough exposure. He said that, if not, he wondered if they needed to take another form of an ad. He said that would be if they didn't get a good response in the newspapers.

Mrs. Thomas said the information also was on the Commission's web site.

Mr. Plain said that Cleveland State also had been working with the staff on the event. He said they were working very closely with Cassaundra to help organize it with their facilities and it was just a case of two agencies working closely together to make something very positive happen in our area. He said he was very excited that Cassaundra had put a lot of effort into the endeavor.

The Chairman said the Commission appreciated Mr. Plain's leadership role.

Mr. Plain said the event was really taking off. He said it would be well attended and everybody was welcome to attend from the Commission.

The Chairman said that next year the staff might talk to the Ohio Department of Transportation or some of the other state agencies and maybe take the leadership role and inviting them to participate and make it a state-wide event.

Mrs. Thomas said that was a good idea. She said also that smaller majority-owned companies had called and wanted the opportunity to have a booth to show their goods and services.

The Chairman asked if the MBE program was getting female-owned business participating.

Mrs. Thomas said they were participating.

The Chairman said he just attended a luncheon last week for Women of Influence from Crain's Cleveland Business publication. He said they were sold out at the Ritz-Carleton and had to turn down 80 to 100 tickets. He said the room was totally filled. He said the guest speaker was Albert Ratner from Forest City, who talked about his late sister, Ruth, and really gave an outstanding talk. He said it was interesting.

The Chairman said the report of the Executive Director was accepted as offered. He said the report of the Deputy Executive Director-Operations would be received.

The Chairman said he asked Mr. Arlow at the last Commission meeting if construction on the connection with Interstate Route 77 at the Cleveland (No. 11) Interchange would be start in the spring of next year and was told it would. He asked Mr. Arlow if that project was still on track.

Mr. Arlow said it was and it would probably begin by late spring or early summer.

Mr. Plain said that, before Mr. Arlow proceeded with his report, he wanted to mention one other thing. He said that about a year or two ago Jerry Wray had brought up a proposal to change the interchange designations on the Turnpike to correspond to the rest of the interstate system. He said at that time the Commission told Mr. Wray that they were considering changing the designations.

Mr. Plain said further that on the interstate system a milepost numbering system was used. He said that on the Turnpike the interchanges had been numbered in sequence from west to east. He said that when new interchanges were built they started using A and B designations depending on what side the new plazas were situated in relation to the existing interchange and it was very confusing. He said the staff was not prepared at today's meeting to offer a resolution to adopt that type of format, but perhaps it would be done at the next meeting.

Mr. Plain said further that on the toll tickets the old and new designations would be printed because some people were used to the numbering system that had been in effect for over 40 years. He said it would take at least six months to a year before they became adjusted to the new designations.

Mr. Plain said further that most of the commercial vehicle operators went by milepost anyway. He said the change on the Turnpike would match up with the interstate standard. He said some of the passenger car drivers were used to knowing the existing interchange numbering, so there would be some confusion with new designations. He said that confusion would be accommodated on the toll tickets and making the change over a period of time.

The Chairman said that earlier he mentioned about continuing to communicate with our associates, but he would also like to make sure that the Commission was communicating with the legislature. He asked if the staff was getting out some type of quarterly information piece to them and telling them what the Commission was doing. He said that he found that if the Commission was communicating more frequently there was less suspicion of what it was doing.

Mr. Plain said he had become pen pals with several legislators. He said he usually had a weekly request for information.

The Chairman asked if a quarterly piece was being sent out.

Mr. Plain said there were the Oversight Committee meetings and those were held quarterly.

The Chairman asked if other information was being sent. He said he was talking about little tidbits.

Mr. Plain said information was dispensed on Gongwer and all the news services and that was what most of the legislators read.

The Chairman said to Senator Gaeth that what he was concerned about, and what he had said before, was that 1998 was an election year and he thought there were going to be vicious campaigns. He said he didn't want the Turnpike to get crossed into other people's political aspirations. He said he wanted to make sure the Commission didn't get caught up in such a situation. He said he expected that there would be some very interesting political races in 1998.

Senator Gaeth said he thought that 90% of the legislators were really not much concerned about the Turnpike. He said there were only a few of them who were really concerned about it and maybe a few whose districts abutted the Turnpike. He said the rest were tickled to death that the Turnpike was going so well and they didn't have to fund it or worry about it.

The Chairman said he just wanted to make sure that the Commission was communicating so that the legislators knew what was being done. He said the Commission was a peculiar agency because the Turnpike went through about 70 communities.

Mr. Plain said he didn't know the total number, but it was probably close to that.

The Chairman said there were about 70 communities that the Turnpike actually touched so it affected a lot of the northern part of the state. He said he wanted to make sure the Commission was communicating.

Mrs. Baker said that before the Commission left the discussion regarding re-designating the interchanges she personally found it very comfortable to know the exit close to where she lived was No. 5. She said that if it suddenly was No. 77 or whatever the milepost number was it would take a while to get used to that. She said she thought people would still call it No. 5.

Mrs. Baker said further that she read that proposal with interest. She said she could see that perhaps the Commission wanted the Turnpike to be numbered like the interstate system, but she rather liked the current system. She said she was very comfortable with that system.

Mr. Plain said they would still keep the names of the interchanges. He said he thought most truckers knew that Exit 5 was Stony Ridge and they still referred to it that way.

Mrs. Baker asked if Mr. Plain didn't think they still used the number.

The Chairman said he got a number of complaints from people saying they got confused with the A and B that did not correspond with anything.

Mr. Plain said the Commission could decide on the interchange designation changes at its next meeting.

Mrs. Baker said she might not be at the November meeting.

Mr. Plain said the decision could be postponed until the December meeting. He said it would be up to the Commission whether it wanted to adopt the change or not.

The Chairman asked Mr. Plain if there was a way to achieve Mrs. Baker's concern while also having mileposts that made sense. He asked if there was a way to do both.

Mr. Plain said that, unfortunately, there was not. He said everything on the current interstate system was done by mileposts. He said the tenth of a mile was dropped and they went back to the single milepost closest to the actual interchange location.

Mr. Zomparelli said if there were any changes adopted by the Commission, the staff would probably want to work with ODOT on an education program because a lot of people didn't realize when they saw Exit 237 that meant milepost 237. He said if they were supposed

to get off at Exit 230, they were only 7 miles away to the next exit. He said there was no use changing the numerical designation unless people knew why it was being done.

The Chairman said that a couple of years ago the Commission developed a very nice brochure that highlighted all the attractions along the Turnpike. He said it was a way for the Commission to promote what was off the Turnpike. He said he thought those brochures were a good communication tool because they were handed out to Turnpike customers.

The Chairman said that regardless of what was done, Turnpike employees had the unique ability to hand out informational materials to all the Turnpike's customers. He said that when the new travel centers were opened the Commission would be able to advertise for their vendors along the Turnpike. He said the more the Commission communicated the better off it would be.

Mr. Plain said there was another side of the coin. He said it was going to be very expensive to change. He said the staff had to change all the Turnpike's signs, but in addition, every piece of our printed literature that was available in the racks at the service plazas would have to be changed to accommodate the new milepost designations.

The Chairman asked Mr. Plain if he heard many complaints.

Mr. Plain said it was both ways. He said many people have said that the designations should be the same as the other interstates.

The Chairman said that if the designations were changed then we would get complaints about it.

Mr. Plain said the Chairman was exactly right. He said it was a no-win situation.

Mrs. Leever said she thought Mr. Zomparelli was right. She said that if the Commission decided to make the change it was absolutely imperative that the Commission tell Turnpike customers about it prior to taking action or at least bring them up to date when it was done. She said the Commission couldn't do it and hope people caught on.

The Chairman asked if some type of poll of Turnpike customers had been taken to get a feel of what they thought about the change.

Mr. Plain said the problem was that they were getting confused with the A's and B's. He said the interchanges were not in numerical order and it got to the point where it was very confusing. He said that maybe the Commission should continue the distinction between the Turnpike and ODOT because the Commission didn't get the federal funds or state funds and the Turnpike was unique. He said that if the change was made the next thing you knew the government would want to tell the Commission how to run the Turnpike.

Mr. Williams asked if the staff knew what other states were doing who had Turnpike facilities with regard to milepost numbering of interchanges.

Mr. Plain said he thought the Pennsylvania Turnpike had both. He said the staff had been looking at other toll roads, but they didn't have the A's and B's. He said the interchanges would have to be re-numbered in some manner from west to east to include the new interchanges because the A's and B's were too confusing. He said, for example, 2A might be 3 or 4.

The Chairman said he wanted the Commission to take its time on making a decision on that matter. He asked Mr. Chiarucci what the outside advisory panel he headed had to say about changing the numerical designations of the interchanges since it had representatives of the trucking companies, some of the Turnpike's biggest customers.

Mr. Plain said that the truckers were the group that had asked to use the milepost numbers. He said he thought that was covered at one of the advisory panel's meetings.

Mr. Chiarucci said he thought the commercial users were the ones in favor of the change to be consistent with the other interstates. He said he didn't think the passenger car drivers were necessarily concerned. He said he thought it was something that could be re-discussed.

Mr. Plain said the other point the Commission had to understand was that 70-80% of Turnpike traffic was passenger cars. He said that it was apparent who the change would confuse the most.

The Chairman said that, however, the commercial drivers represented a bigger part of the Turnpike's revenue. He said he was going to abstain and let everyone else figure it out.

Mr. Plain said the Commission did not have to act on the change until probably the December meeting. He said he just wanted to bring it up to start the Members thinking about it and maybe talk to people in their respective areas regarding how they felt. He said he did know that ODOT would like the Commission to follow the milepost designations because the Turnpike carried Interstate Routes 80, 90 and 76.

The Chairman said he wanted to make another recommendation getting geared up for 1998. He said that as the Commission got ready to end this year and start the next he wanted Mr. Plain to look at the accomplishments for 1997 and get together with the staff and Commission Members and the Commission's outside consultants to figure out what some of the goals would be for 1998.

The Chairman said further that the other thing he would like to do was ask Mr. Chiarucci to head up our own "Internal Operations Improvement Task Force" and look at things we could continually improve from a business standpoint. He said he would like a review of the procedures we are doing on a department-by-department basis.

The Chairman said his feeling was that if the Turnpike's 43.3 million customers had the finest experience with the best maintained road, the new travel centers and the friendliest customer service people (we should call our Toll Collectors customer service people), then we would be properly taking care of them. He said if that situation prevailed then the Commission would win and the customers would win.

The Chairman said also that he was going to ask Mr. Chiarucci if we can set up an Operations Improvement Task Force to look at everything we are doing. He said every business practice should be looked at so that during 1998 the Commission could start looking at what needed to be improved on from communications, public relations, toll collections and operations. He said that the Commission might need some people on the outside to help us.

The Chairman said further that, as he had said before, the Commission spent millions of dollars on engineering consultants and almost no money on business consultants. He said he

was not saying spend money, but he was saying there were things that could continually improve.

The Chairman said further that the Commission's labor costs were way down with the growth of all the new interchanges. He said revenues were obviously up with the toll increases. He said the Commission's overall revenues were down slightly due mostly to construction. He said that as soon as construction stopped in July and August then traffic came right back on the Turnpike.

Mr. Plain said the Commission's consultant, Bobby Everhart, was just saying that he ran some numbers for September for commercial vehicles and they were higher than in August, which traditionally was the Turnpike's peak travel month for any year.

The Chairman said the other thing the Commission was going to ask for was to be very conservative financially. He said they were going to do projects, but they were not going to leverage the Turnpike. He said that sometimes that meant it would take longer to do certain projects than anticipated. He said that meant that the Commission would not borrow as much and use more cash.

The Chairman said further that sometimes the Commission might have to postpone projects for a while. He said he wanted to make sure that the Commission was looking 20 years into the future in order to secure sufficient funding for required projects. He said the Commission knew that the Turnpike's bridges would need to be replaced 20 years ahead so the Commission should talk about funding today.

Mr. Plain said the Commission had better not have to redo them in 20 years.

The Chairman said that twenty years from now when Senator Gaeth and he were playing golf or sitting down for a drink they could look back and say they had some vision and didn't leave the future Commission Members with big increases so they got all the bad press.

The Chairman said the report of the Deputy Executive Director-Operations should be continued.

Mr. Arlow said there were four third lane projects that were scheduled to be completed this year. He said five overhead bridge projects were scheduled to be completed by November 21. He said that as of the meeting date all those projects were on schedule or ahead of schedule. He said that, in fact, there would be a couple of third lane projects that would be completed early.

Mr. Arlow said further that construction was underway on one new interchange and a roadway connection -- Exit 2A at State Route 66 and the Mahoning County Road 18 tie-in to the Niles-Youngstown (No. 15) Interchange. He said work was progressing very nicely on those projects and they were set to be completed in 1998.

Mr. Arlow said further that the toll plaza rehabilitation project at Exit 12 was finished. He said it was scheduled to be completed on October 31, but everything was now done except for some minor items. He said rehabilitation of Exit 4 was started and it would be accomplished in 1998.

Mr. Arlow said further that two, third lane projects authorized at the last Commission meeting, a total of 8.4 miles, were in progress and would be finalized in 1998. He said Mr. Plain had talked about the S. R. 58 interchange earlier in the meeting.

The Chairman asked Mr. Arlow if he could have a copy of that report and also from the last several months so he could keep some other people informed.

Mr. Arlow said those reports would be provided to the Chairman.

The Chairman said the report of the Deputy Executive Director-Operations was accepted as offered. He asked if a meeting was scheduled in November.

Mr. Plain said a meeting had been tentatively scheduled for the 10th of November.

Mrs. Baker said she could not attend a meeting on the 10th.

Mr. Plain asked Mr. Arlow or Mr. Ransbury if they had any contracts that had to be awarded at that time.

Mr. Ransbury said there was one out to bid which would open on November 6.

Mr. Plain asked if that contract would not start until next year.

Mr. Ransbury said he didn't think that would be a problem.

Mr. Arlow said that if the November 10th date was not acceptable then why not skip the November meeting and meet again in December to adopt the necessary resolutions.

The Chairman said he felt that if a monthly meeting was needed in order to adopt required resolutions for timely advancement of projects then the meeting should be held. He said that, on the other hand, it would be more productive if a meeting could be postponed here or there and get more done in other meetings. He said that the November meeting would be skipped and the next meeting would be on December 15.

Mr. Plain said that meeting had to be held in order to adopt the Commission's final budget for calendar year 1998.

The Chairman asked the other Members if the December 15th date was okay.

Mrs. Baker said it was okay.

Mrs. Baker said the date of the next Oversight Committee meeting needed to be announced.

Mr. Plain said the next Oversight Committee meeting would be held on Monday, November 3, 1997, at the Holiday Inn in Liberty Township, which was five miles from the Niles-Youngstown (No. 15) Interchange off I-80 east at Belmont Avenue. He said the meeting would be held in the districts of Representative Gerberry and Senator Lattell.

The Chairman said he could not make that date.

Mr. Plain said that anyone from the Commission who would like to attend the meeting was welcome.

Senator Gaeth said that the last Oversight Committee meeting, which unfortunately he could not attend because of his wife's surgery, he thought was a good indication of how important those meetings were. He said they were a waste of time and certainly a costly thing for the Commission.

The Chairman said he didn't disagree with Senator Gaeth, but that was the law. He said that if the legislators wanted the meetings then the Commission was happy to do them. He said it was the Commission's feeling that the legislators could come to any meeting they would like. He said the Commission would love to have them.

The Chairman said that Senator Gaeth was one of the few who attended the Commission meetings, but all legislators were welcome to attend. He said that maybe the Commission should send them invitations for every meeting.

Mr. Baker said the Commission had to choose a date or couple of tentative dates for a public meeting before the next toll increase.

Mr. Plain said a meeting had to be set up in November.

The Chairman said that, in fact, he still had memos that newspaper reporters sent him about letters sent to him that he still hadn't gotten from the people who sent them. He said he got them from the newspaper reporters. He said they asked him what did he say about the letter so and so sent to him. He said he told them he never got it. He said it was a lot of politics. He said the Commission was not into politics, but rather into good roads.

Mr. Plain said the next public meeting would be held on a Friday.

Mr. Zomparelli said the last meeting was held out west in the Toledo area.

Mr. Plain said some of the legislators complained that they could not attend that meeting because it was held on a Wednesday.

The Chairman said those legislators were the same ones who showed up at all the meetings.

Mr. Plain said they never showed up at those meetings, either. He said the staff was trying to accommodate them all.

Mr. Zomparelli said the staff would establish dates and possible locations for the public meetings on the toll increase.

The Chairman said that with regard to the meetings with department heads on the upcoming budgets he would like to see the last 3 to 4 years experience to compare expenditures and revenues.

There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Williams that the meeting adjourn until the next meeting on December 15.

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Baker, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Leever, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the meeting stood adjourned. The time of adjournment was 11:15 a.m.

Approved as a correct transcript of the proceedings
of the Ohio Turnpike Commission


Marilyn R. Baker, Secretary-Treasurer