

Road Plan Eyed By Alexandria

By Susanna McBee

Staff Reporter

Alexandria planners have recommended a new highway program designed to sweep north-south traffic through the city's central district.

The 4-stage proposal would take advantage of Circumferential Highway construction at the southern tip of Alexandria and the widening of the George Washington Memorial parkway in northern Alexandria.

It would split the city's congested Route 1 into two one-way corridors, route northbound Telegraph rd. traffic onto Duke st., and add a new bridge and grade separation to link Route 1 with the Parkway in northern Alexandria.

The proposal, presented Tuesday night to the City Council by Planner Martin Smith, as yet has no price tag. Smith said he hopes the Route 1 split can be ready when the Circumferential interchange with Route 1 is finished—presumably by 1962.

The new bridge over the Potomac Yards north of the present Powhatan st bridge should be built to coincide with the planned 6-lane parkway into Alexandria, Smith said.

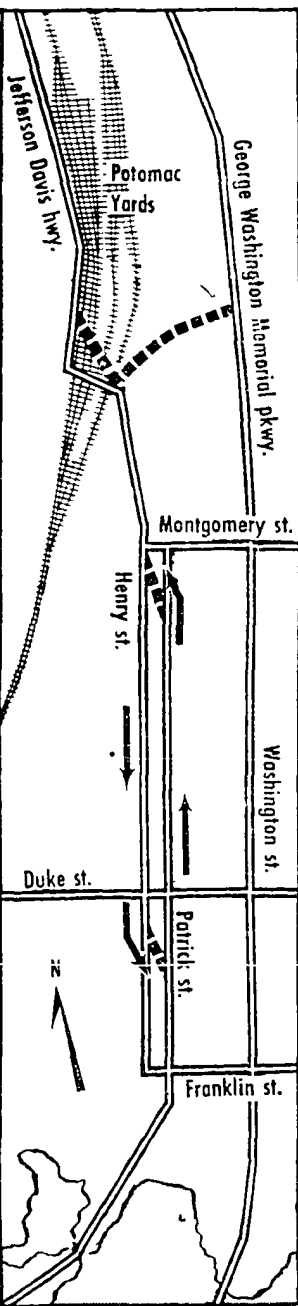
Stage one calls for making Henry st the southbound Route 1 and Patrick st the northbound lane. The legs, which would be six lanes each, would split at Henry st south of First st. and would rejoin on Patrick near Wilkes st. Now Route 1 follows Henry in the northern part of Alexandria and Patrick in the southern part.

In stage two, Telegraph rd. would be widened and the bottleneck at Duke st. would be eliminated by a grade separation.

The Alexandria planners propose to direct northbound traffic along Duke st. onto Route 1 rather than Callahan drive as proposed in an earlier engineering study. Residents of the Rosemont area have stiffly resisted the engineering study because they said it would route heavy traffic through their residential neighborhood.

Stage three calls for widening and improving Duke st. from Telegraph rd. to Route 1.

In stage four the new "possibly six-lane" bridge with a grade separation would be constructed. Also, Slaters lane would be improved to provide the connection between Route 1 and the parkway.



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This map shows how Alexandria planners plan to relieve traffic congestion in the downtown section by making Henry and Patrick sts. one way.