

By-Pass Meeting Is Postponed

Officials' Absence Causes Delay

A meeting which had been planned for Tuesday night to consider proposals for by-passes across the railway tracks between the north and south sides of Billings has been postponed until such time as Howard W. Holmes, chief engineer of the Montana highway commission, can attend.

This was announced Monday night by Mayor Charles F. Frost, who said Holmes, after spending Sunday here, had been unexpectedly called back to Helena and would not be able to return for the Tuesday night meeting.

The mayor said he felt it was very important that the chief engineer and members of the highway commission be given full information on the ground of the need of a by-pass or by-passes and that the meeting would be arranged to suit their early convenience.

In a letter to the mayor, Governor Sam C. Ford last week expressed his interest in the matter, and said he was asking Engineer Holmes and members of the commission to endeavor to attend the Tuesday session.

John M. Wheeler of Billings, vice chairman of the commission, Monday told Rockwood Brown, chairman of the mayor's special grade crossing committee, that his study has convinced him that first consideration should be given construction of a grade crossing just west of the Yale Oil corporation plant to allow heavy trucks to pass through the city via the south side, without causing congested traffic on First avenue north. Under this plan the south side route would be designated as an alternate U. S. 10 highway. This, he believes, will solve the controversy as to whether the highway from here to Huntley should be on the north or south side of the Yellowstone river, since regardless of which way it goes passenger traffic would in large part be held to First avenue north. Next, he said, designation of the alternate U. S. 10 routes would necessitate a midtown by-pass connection, a prime objective of the mayor's special committee.

Chairman Brown said he shared Commissioner Wheeler's views, and that they and the mayor were anxious to have Engineer Holmes and Commissioners W. W. Phillips and Al F. Winkler to go over the situation.

While here Sunday Engineer Holmes made a survey of the narrow Northern Pacific underpass just west of the city limits. The engineer and Commissioner Wheeler reached the conclusion the commissioner told Brown, that it could be reconstructed in its present location to provide for four-lane traffic, with a minimum of expense.

The mayor reiterated Monday night that he considered the by-pass problem one of the most important confronting the city, and that he and the special grade crossing committee would continue to do everything in their power to bring about an early solution.

Traffic Rerouting Is Major Problem To Be Resolved at Postponed Meet

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