

# IT'LL BE HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR CITY'S DRIVERS

## Projects Taking Shape to Speed Traffic

BY HAL FOUST

This should be a Happy New Year for Chicago motorists. The Congress st. expressway, under construction for a decade, by late fall should be completed from Michigan av. to Laramie av. [5200 west]. Double decked Wacker dr. will be extended south as far as Congress.

This year Cook county's 245 million dollar expressway program should be well under way. Routes radiating from the central business district are to be completed in five years. They are: Northwest to O'Hare International airport, with an Edens expressway connection; southwest to connect with U. S. 66; and south to the Calumet Skyway and the Calumet-Kingery expressway.

The city's construction of the 8 million dollar Calumet Skyway is to be started this year. It will extend from the south expressway at State and 63d sts. to the Indiana line at Indianapolis blvd. and 106th st. There will be a high fixed bridge over the Calumet river.

### Indiana Link Moves Along

At the Indiana line, the Skyway will connect with the Hoosier toll road. This 156 mile turnpike across northern Indiana will be completed late in 1956. This will link Chicago with New York and New England with an all expressway route using the turnpikes of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Gov. Stratton expects to start building a 415 million dollar system of 193 miles of turnpikes in northern Illinois by-passing Chicago.

Chicago is not alone in taking major steps to ease traffic congestion. An Associated Press survey at the turn of the year reports that most other large American cities are trying to make 1956 a happier year for motorists.

### Reports from Other Cities

Some of these reports follow:

**New York City** — Officials hope to build a second deck on the George Washington bridge. Work is in progress on a third tube for the Lincoln tunnel under the Hudson river between New York and New Jersey. Several north-south avenues were made one way.

**Los Angeles** — Ten miles of freeways were added, bringing the total to 97.2 miles. Many more miles were under construction. Plans call for more than 400 miles of freeways eventually. More streets were made one way. The city's first electronically synchronized traffic signal system was installed along 11 miles of Ventura blvd., which handles 80,000 cars daily. Plans were made for using helicopters to spot traffic snarls.

**Philadelphia** — Broad st., the city's major artery, was shifted to one way southbound in the morning rush hours and one way northbound in evening rush hours. Construction was under way to extend the Schuylkill expressway to downtown Philadelphia.

### Detroit Makes Progress

**Detroit** — Construction went ahead on expressways, bridges and overpasses and several new stretches were opened. A 10 million dollar expressway interchange was opened. A television system was installed on expressways to control traffic.

**San Francisco** — A program to extend freeways was continued. All turning at intersections was banned on some key streets during rush hours. Stopping at curbs was banned on some streets.

**Washington, D. C.** — More one way streets were marked off. The Washington end of the Baltimore-Washington expressway was completed. A new bridge was opened over Anacostia river in southeast Washington. Congress approved construction of a new bridge across the Potomac river. A 272 million dollar innerbelt freeway loop to go around the central section of the city is planned.

**Baltimore** — Major 1955 projects included installation of an electronic brain traffic signal system and parking meters and conversion of more major arteries to one way streets.

### Boston Bans Early Parking

**Boston** — Construction continued on a central artery expressway in downtown Boston. Rush hour parking was banned in the mornings to speed the traffic flow.

### Cleveland — Construction

started on a 75 million dollar inner belt freeway system which will circle downtown Cleveland. Two new rapid transit lines were opened. The first of a series of city owned outlying parking lots was opened. A subway system is in future plans.

**Denver** — All downtown streets were made one way. Buses stop beyond intersections.

**Kansas City** — A north side parking project with space for 1,800 cars moved nearer completion and work progressed on a 12 million dollar Sixth st. expressway. Work was started on a 13 million dollar toll bridge connecting the Sixth st. expressway over the Missouri river with the Municipal airport. The city's \$6,100,000 auditorium plaza garage, accommodating 1,200 cars, is slated for opening.

**Cincinnati** — Construction continued on an expressway and a half-mile viaduct in the downtown area. The downtown traffic signal system was rebuilt for faster and safer movement of traffic.

### New Bridge Approaches

**New Orleans** — Major 1955 projects included starting construction of approaches to a new Mississippi river bridge, widening streets and extending boulevards.

**Minneapolis** — Six two way streets were converted to one way. Mid-block bus pickups were established on two busy streets to reduce congestion.

**Seattle** — The city's entire business district, except for two streets, is being converted to one way traffic.

**Buffalo** — The Buffalo Skyway, a two mile bridge carrying highway traffic to and from the west and south over the congested harbor area, was completed.

**Milwaukee** — Major 1955 projects completed include the first 3,000 feet of an auxiliary north-south expressway on S. 44th st.

**Indianapolis** — Plans went ahead for a two mile, six lane, limited access expressway thru the south side to carry U. S. 31 into downtown Indianapolis.

**San Antonio** — Major planning was completed for an expressway development and a modernized system of traffic signals.

**Dallas** — Major projects included replacement of street cars with buses, a master plan for a one way downtown traffic system and work on expressways and a toll road.

**Pittsburgh** — Construction work proceeded on the Penn-Lincoln parkway, which ultimately will run east-west thru the downtown district.

**St. Louis** — Voters approved bond issues providing for three new expressways running into downtown St. Louis from the north, south, and west.