

LAND ECONOMIC STUDY

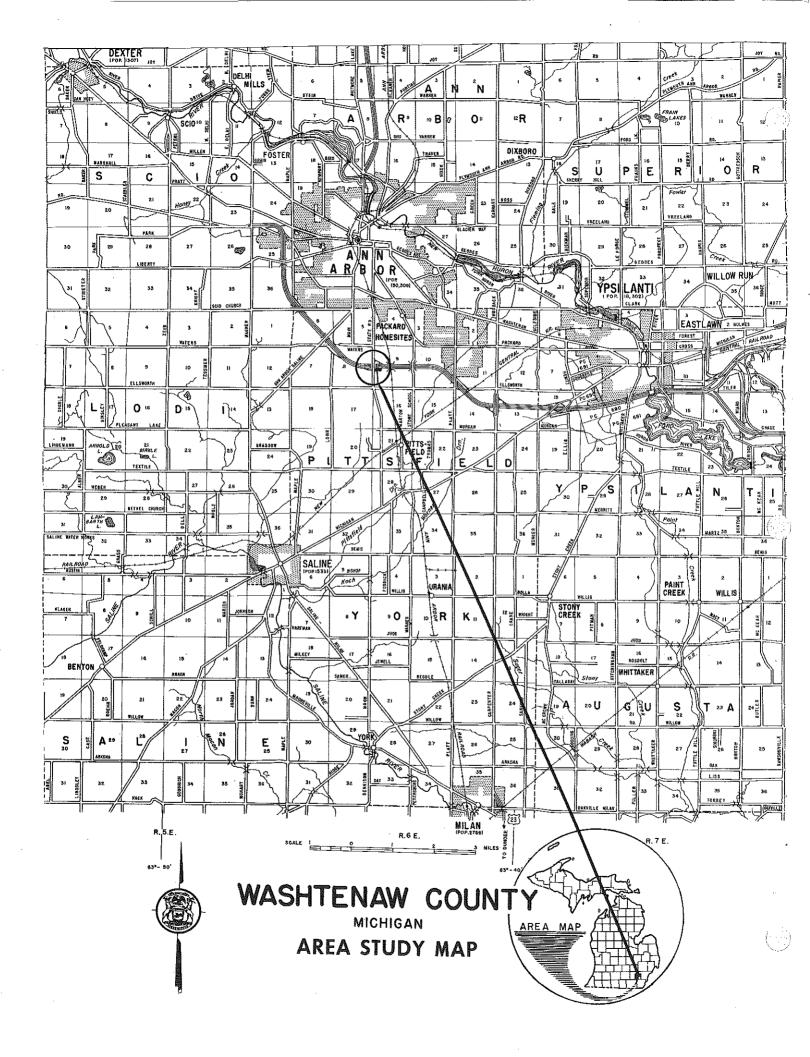
NO. 6 I-94 AND STATE ROAD INTERCHANGE ANN ARBOR VICINITY

GRADE CHANGE AND PROXIMITY EFFECTS

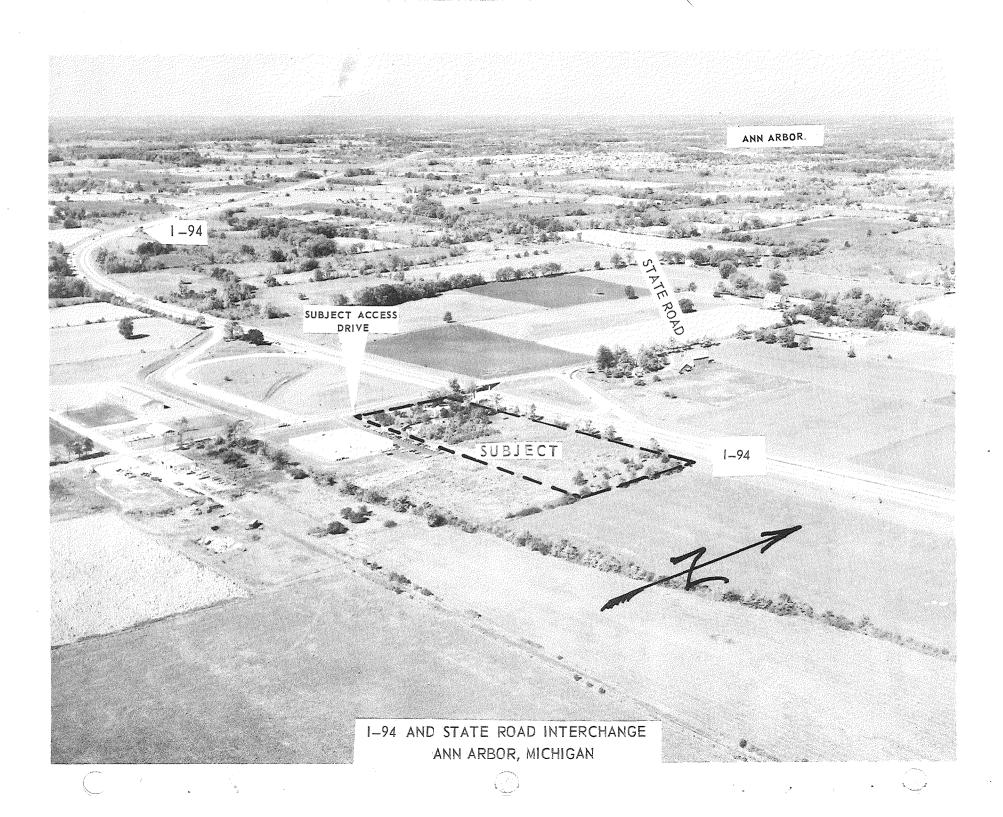
MICHIGAN STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT RIGHT OF WAY DIVISION APPRAISAL SECTION

RIGHT OF WAY RESEARCH PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

DECEMBER 1960







INFLUENCE OF A HIGH EMBANKMENT AT AN INTERCHANGE

This study covers a parcel of land with a high embankment and with access restricted to a 30 foot roadway at one corner of the property. It shows how supposedly adverse influence can be counterbalanced by benefits that interchange access presents.

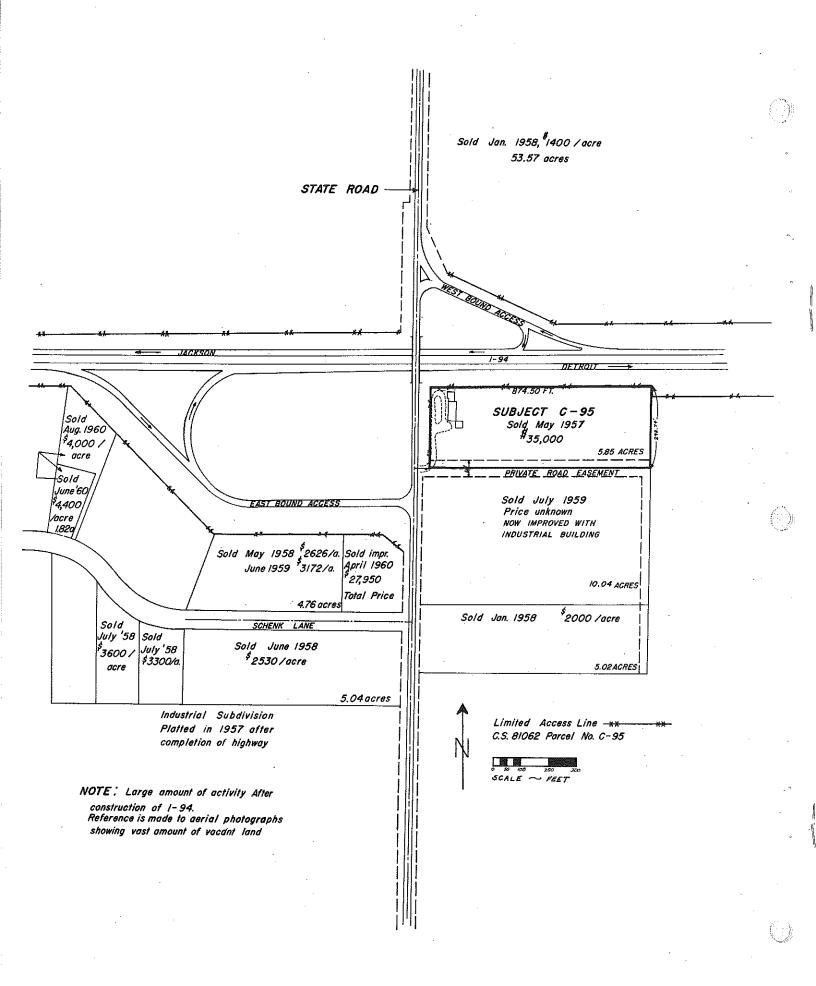
AREA INFORMATION

In 1955 US-12 (now I-94) was extended as a controlled access highway from Ypsilanti to the west side of Ann Arbor. At that time, most of the area south of Ann Arbor was still used in agricultural production and was zoned as such. The price of land was beginning to rise due to the influence of industrial expansion along State Road from the City Limits of Ann Arbor. However, the development was comparatively slow and was somewhat spotty in character with practically all of it contained in the first one-half mile south of the city limits. Since the construction of the freeway, the industrial development has literally leaped from the close proximity of the city limits to the vicinity of the interchange with the in-between area receiving limited industrial growth. The zoning was changed to M-l (light industrial) on July 22, 1957. The township had had a history of a willingness to approve light industrial zoning along State Road during the 1950's.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

In October, 1954, a before and after appraisal was made of the subject parcel by a recognized local appraiser. In April, 1955, the damage hearing was held and awards made. In May, 1957, the remainder parcel was sold.

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The problem faced was the comparison of the estimated before value, the estimated after value, and the after value based on award, with the sale of the subject property being consummated two years after the take. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY

In 1954, the subject property consisted of a six acre parcel with 298 feet of frontage on State Road and a depth of 875 feet. The south 30 feet is subject to an easement for a private road. It was located 1.7 miles south of the Ann Arbor City Limits. There was a public water system but no sanitary sewers were available.

The property was improved with a $l\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 6-room house, which was old but in fair condition. There was an old but useable 30 x 40 foot greenhouse, an 18 x 44 foot garage and workshop, and a 20 x 24 foot cement block building with a two-room apartment up and a two-car garage down.

The property was being used as a small nursery and as such had been leased for 3 years to a florist at \$100 per month, or \$1200 per year. The lease covered the use of the entire property.

The highway take reduced the land area by 0.15 acres and the elevation of State Road for a passover across I-94 made a 5-foot embankment on the south edge of the property and a 15-foot embankment in front of the house on the north edge of the property. The house was located approximately 60 feet from the edge of the embankment and within 5 feet of the freeway right of way fence. No buildings were taken. The drive was changed so that its outlet was on the south 30 feet of the property.

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In October 1954 the estimated value by the state appraiser was

as follows:

| Before Value Land 6.00 acres Improvements Total Estimated Value | \$ 5,000 <u>\$20,000</u> \$25,000 |
|--|---|
| After Value •15 acre taken Land 5•85 acres Improvements Total Value | \$17,000 |
| Compensation | \$ 8,000 |

The improvement value and land value was not set forth by the appraiser, but he listed compensation as follows:

| Land •15 acre | \$ 500 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Severance Damage | <u>\$ 7,500</u> |
| | \$ 8,000 |

The appraiser allotted the bulk of the damages to the buildings because of change of grade proximity and restricted access.

The condemnation hearing was held in April of 1955.

Their award was \$10,250.

Using the estimated before value as a base, the indicated after value by court award is:

| Before Value | \$25,000 |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Less Court Award | \$10,250 |
| Indicated After Value | \$14,750 |

On May 7, 1957, (Liber 802, p. 308, Washtenaw County records) the property was sold on Land Contract for \$35,000 with \$8,500 down. The purchaser, Dunn Electric, an industrial contractor, purchased the property because he wanted quick access to a freeway. The house was converted into an office.



The property selling for \$35,000 increased in relation to its estimated or indicated value as follows:

| i. | | SALE PRICE |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | INDICATED | AS PERCENT OF |
| BASE | VALUE | INDICATED VALUE |
| Before Value | \$25,000 | 140 % |
| After Value | \$17,000 | 206 %. |
| After Value Indicated | \$14,750 | 237 % |
| by award | | · · · · · |

CONCLUSIONS

Allowance by the Commission and by the state appraiser for the grade change, proximity, and restriction of access appears to be excessive. It is apparent that the damages should have been only nominal instead of \$8,000 or \$10,250 as estimated by the state appraiser and made by the Condemnation Commission

Special benefits arising from an interchange in this case offset damage due to restricted access and grade change.

Finally, this study demonstrates that an appraiser must consider possible change in highest and best use when analyzing after values because the freeway undoubtedly contributes greatly to a change of highest and best use.