Sargent blocks study of Inner Belt routes

Cambridge opponents of the controversial Inner Belt highway won a major victory in their long-time struggle Wednesday night as Governor Francis Sargent announced a significant reversal of the state’s transportation policy.

The Governor cancelled a proposed $5.5 million, 18 month study of the hotly-debated Cambridge route. Sargent declared that the study would only have studied where the highway would go, not whether it was necessary or desirable.

Asserting that the policy reversal was following the recommendations of a task force headed by MIT Professor Alan Altshuler (XVII), Sargent said that it was now apparent that highways were not meeting the needs of the people and were too costly in terms of homes and the environment.

Declaring that the state’s action would be the first of its kind in the nation, the Governor announced his hope for a “balanced transportation development program.” Studies will be suspended at if, not where, highways are necessary, Sargent said that he will go to Washington in an attempt to change the emphasis in current federal funding. He will ask that the funds which have gone predominantly for highways should also go for mass transit, upgrading of existing streets, and replacement housing.

The Governor’s disapproval of the Cambridge Inner Belt also applied to the proposed extension of Route II and the Southwest Expressway. He rejected calls for a complete moratorium of highway construction in the area, however.

SMC TO CONSIDER BROADER ACTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

The question of political support for peace candidates has sharply split the antiwar movement in a multi-issue movement, and support of peace candidates in this year’s elections.

Contestation expected

That a split will develop is by no means certain, the SMC told The Tech but the possibility is significant. Gonic greenbergs expected, however, on the desirability of mass actions.

Chance of Disruption

Although the atmosphere in which the meeting is being held has been generally receptive, fear of possible actions at disappointment by the Weatherman faction of SDS have led to rather extensive security precautions.

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