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Business And Civic Leaders Join In Call For Solution Of Midtown Bridge Problem

ONE PLAN PROPOSED FOR CENTRAL CITY BRIDGE

Public sentiment in favor of an early solution of the problem arising from the inadequacy of the present Franklin st. bridge began to find expression in Peoria yesterday among business and civic leaders, including some members and former members of the Good Roads committee of the Peoria Association of Commerce.

Some were in favor of a new bridge to supplant the structure now in use. Others recommended that certain improvements be made in the present structure. Still others said they believed the problem could be solved by increasing the size and relocating approaches both here and in East Peoria.

On one point, however, there appeared to be a consensus of opinion—that something must be done soon about Peoria's mid-town bridge problem.

Problem Not New

The comments followed an editorial in yesterday's Peoria Journal-Transcript calling attention to the problem and urging action to remedy it.

A number of these comments are printed in an adjoining column.

The problem presented by the Franklin st. bridge as it stands isn't exactly new.

For quite a few years back, the bridge admittedly has failed to properly perform its function in a rapidly growing metropolitan center.

Only a short time ago the bridge was closed for several days because of failure of mechanism on occasion which threw such a burden on the Cedar st. span that traffic was snarled into exasperating knots.

But up until now, as was pointed out in the editorial, attention was drawn to the problem by efforts of the city to obtain a new North Side bridge. Now, the last barrier to a new upper bridge has been left behind, work already is under way and any effort to obtain a much needed new bridge to serve the central part of the city no longer can possibly jeopardize in any manner the North Side bridge.

Urged Concerted Move

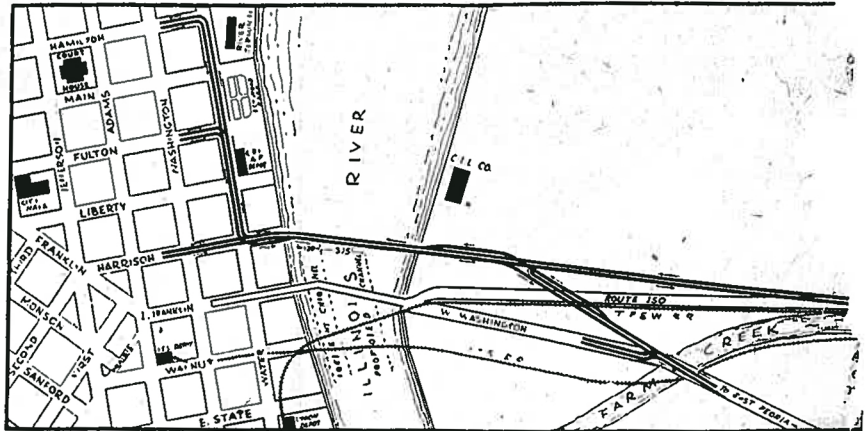
While opinions vary as to what type of bridge structure should be built, it is generally agreed that a new bridge is badly needed and that a concerted movement for such should be launched at once.

August Thede, chairman of the Good Roads committee of the Peoria Association of Commerce, said the problem is acute and that it will be taken up with members of the committee at an early date.

Mr. Thede said:

"We have been very busy of late on a highway improvement program covering much of Peoria county. Now that program is nearing completion and we will be able to turn our attention to the problem of a new downtown bridge. A meeting of the committee will be held soon to take up this important matter."

Among the projects recently sponsored by the Good Roads committee, Mr. Thede stated are: Relocation and widening of Galena



This sketch, made four years ago by Jacob A. Harman, consulting engineer and designer, shows his idea for a six-lane high span bridge to replace the present Franklin st. draw-bridge. With construction work on the new North Side bridge now started, public sentiment again has turned to the problem of a solution of the traffic problems caused by the inadequacy of the present Franklin st. bridge. Heavy black lines show traffic lanes of the proposed bridge and approaches.