

(ROLL FILM)

A decision on which way to run Virginia's major East-West interstate highway should be forthcoming in about two months. (SHOW FILM)

Yesterday the State Highway Commission heard more than five hours of arguments by spokesmen favoring a northern and southern route.

So much time was consumed in Arguments that both sides agreed to submit written rebuttals to the commission. Del. Kossen Gregory of Roanoke contended use of the short cut from near Eagle Rock across the mountains to a point near Low Moor would bring the cost of the southern route one million, 927-thousand dollars below that of the northern route, rather than 37 million dollars more.

Proponents of the northern route called it the best one and pointed to its endorsement by two groups of engineering consultants.

The commission has engaged consultants to recommend a location for the East-West highway.

Their work will take two months at least and then the commission will announce a decision.

About 1,500 were in attendance at Richmond's Mosque

Auditorium when the hearing began. (BACK TO ED)