The I-496 freeway loop opened in late 1970. The road, cutting across downtown Lansing, was given the name “Olds Freeway” in honor of Ransom E. Olds. The new freeway reflected a national trend as workers moved out of the cities to suburban homes. I-496 spurred growth in the suburbs, but claimed many streets, homes and businesses in the city. The Olds Mansion and the heart of Lansing’s African-American community were torn out by the freeway’s construction.

You should know:
About 960 Lansing families had to be relocated due to the construction of I-496.