

Bedford Seeks B&M Land To Relieve Traffic Snags

By **WILLIAM D. GODSOF**

BEDFORD—A circumferential highway system on abandoned railroad properties, to ease two traffic bottlenecks, comes before the 1963 town meeting for initial approval in March.

The meeting will be asked to approve expenditure of \$15,000, to purchase two sections of the old Lexington Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, a price already agreed upon by the road and Bedford selectmen.

The railroad right-of-way land would be converted to roads, to divert traffic around Bedford Center and to circumvent the Bedford V. A. Hospital grounds.

Federal aid for the hospital road project might be available, and the question is to be explored, according to Arthur L. Hayden, chairman of the selectmen.

The right-of-way purchase involves a total of 5 miles of roadbed on two separate single-track lines, from Bedford toward Concord and from Bedford toward Billerica.

Most of the track and cross ties already have been purchased and removed by the St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad, Hayden said.

One route would siphon

westbound traffic coming from Rte. 128 and Lexington off the Great Road onto Shawsheen av. to the proposed new road. The route would loop south of Bedford Center and connect with Rte. 62, the Concord road. Also under consideration is relocation of present Rte. 62 as it enters the Great Road from Burlington, to allow a connection with the new road.

The second road project would bypass Springs rd., a direct route to Billerica which runs through the center of the V.A. Hospital grounds. Reduced speeds necessitated by the hospital grounds congestion would be eliminated.

The new road would be constructed north of Springs rd., and would also provide access to a new elementary school and two parcels of land purchased recently by the town from the government for recreational and conservation use.