

# Guilderland



PERVISOR - - PHONE ALBANY 8-7434  
TOWN CLERK - - PHONE ALBANY 8-4259  
TAX COLLECTOR - PHONE ALBANY 8-4259  
SCHENECTADY PHONE - FR 2-6366

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND - ALBANY COUNTY

WILLOW STREET

GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK

January 8, 1964

Mr. William S. Hults, Chairman  
State Traffic Commission  
130 Ontario Street  
Albany, New York

Dear Sir:

Since July 29, 1957, despite numerous requests from the McKownville Improvement Association, your office has not felt that a traffic light is needed on Route 20, between the Albany City Line and Fuller Road.

You indicated in a letter of December 26, 1963, to Mr. Guy J. Rising, 18 Norwood Street, McKownville, that a traffic count at the intersection of McKown Road and Route 20, revealed a total of only 128 vehicles per hour entering or crossing Route 20 at this point. You also stated that only 28 pedestrians, 14 of which were school children, were crossing at this intersection per hour. I wonder, Mr. Hults, if your office noted that there are nine of these intersections between the Albany City Line and Fuller Road. This would mean that there are approximately 1150 vehicles per hour crossing or entering Route 20 in this short stretch of highway. It would also mean that there are approximately 252 pedestrians, 126 of which are children, crossing this highway per hour. It would seem that a traffic light installed at a half way point would at least provide a break in traffic, so that children would have a fighting chance to cross this dangerous highway.

Your letter of December 26, 1963, says and I quote, "...it appears that motorists and pedestrians can enter or cross U. S. Route 20 with no undue delay or hazard..." Your letter was written just twelve days ago and yet as I write this letter today, a little ten year old Guilderland girl is dead, because adults did not provide her with a safe way to cross this thoroughfare.

The New York State Thruway, the Northway and the reconstruction of Fuller Road were necessary to handle the increasing number of motor vehicles. However, because of these, additional controls are necessary to protect the lives of the residents of the Town of

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January 8, 1964

Mr. William S. Hults:

Guilderland. In addition to adding new super highways in the Guilderland area, the State of New York has also increased the speed limit on Route 20, twice in the last few years. The Town of Guilderland is growing at a rapid pace and has added many new businesses that have also contributed to make Route 20 a very hazardous route.

In spite of the tremendous increase in traffic and in accidents, the State of New York saw fit to close the State Police Barracks, the only means of protection in our Town. This move was supposedly made to increase efficiency and economy. Has it proved to be more efficient and economical, Mr. Hults, when we have lost one of our Guilderland children? What a price to pay for economy! To the people of Guilderland the death of Judy Clark is much more than just another newspaper statistic. It is a shocking occurrence which has grieved our entire town.

The 18,000 residents and taxpayers of Guilderland need your help in eliminating the dangerous traffic condition that exists on U. S. Route 20 and feel that you must shoulder some responsibility for their protection.

We respectfully request that your office provide us with at least one traffic light between Fuller Road and the Albany City Line on Route 20 immediately.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very serious matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Robinson".  
Gordon Robinson Supervisor  
Town of Guilderland

GR:adm  
cc McKownville Imprve. Assoc  
Town Board  
Town Clerk  
Robert O. Clark