

May 25, 1976

Mr. William C. Hennessy  
Executive Deputy Commissioner  
1220 Washington Avenue, Bldg. 5  
5th Floor  
Albany, New York 12232

Dear Mr. Hennessy:

Recently I was informed that Western Avenue from the Albany City line to McCormick's Corners would be re-paved and widened to provide a fifth lane. This is an unnecessary project and thus a waste of State monies. More importantly, it will result in the further commercialization of Western Avenue; an effect that the Town of Guilderland and its neighborhood associations, and the Capital District Regional Planning Association has been attempting to prevent.

The repaving of Route 20 is, of course, from time-to-time quite necessary. There can be no useful discussion of that point. The widening of the road, within Albany County, is another matter, because that necessarily changes the character of the land areas in proximity to the road. Interestingly, the Department of Transportation itself opposed the widening of Route 20 until the Division of the Budget informed them that they had to supplement State funds with federal funds, and federal funds are only available for "improvements" and the only improvement that they thought they could "document" the need for was widening. This is terrible decision-making.

It would be better, of course, to wait another year or so for Route 20 re-paving and use of State plus federal money for a useful project elsewhere in the State. This change in timing provides maximum benefits without creating avoidable social costs on the residents of Guilderland.

I heartily recommend this alternative to you and the Department.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Reeb  
Associate Professor  
5 Norwood Street  
Albany, New York 12203