

To: Western Avenue Property Owners
From: McKownville Improvement Association (contact person Don Reeb)
Date: November 16, 2001
Subject: **The Proposal to Widen Western Avenue**

The CDTC (Capital District Transportation Committee (518-458-2161--5 Computer Drive West, Albany, New York 12205, John D. Poorman, Staff Director) has issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) to: **...study pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities...between the Albany city line and Church road in the McKownville hamlet in the Town of Guilderland**". (page 1, RFP). The RFP continues that the study is to include: **..."cost and feasibility of moving the centerline to minimize right of way impacts to neighboring properties, NYSDOT policies for Route 20, and other related records and policies"**.

Evidently the idea is to move the Western Avenue roadway south. As you know better than others, this will take the front yards of the four or five homes on the south side, making them less usable as residences. The two dozen businesses, fire department and church on the south side of Western will see their parking lots shrink and driveways shorten. The homes immediately behind Western Avenue will see more overload parking on the side streets. All of McKownville will see more of a "speedway city" along Western.

The major focus of the RFP is the intersection at Fuller Road. All of us would like to see a safer intersection, but at what price and why does CDTC assume these changes are connected?

The widening of Western Avenue would lead to increased pressure for commercial development on both sides of Western, increase the vehicle speeds along Western, decrease the residential quality of life for all McKownville residents, make crossing Western to catch the bus more difficult, make it more dangerous for school children catching the school bus on Western, and generally reduce our hamlet to something less than it is.

We need a narrower Western Avenue, not a wider one.

Western Avenue in McKownville should be made to look like a city street, much like that found along Western from Manning Boulevard to Brevator Street in the City. Curbs, sidewalks, trees along the street and in the front yards and **narrower** automobile lanes so that people can cross the street and cars will be encouraged to go slower. (Parking lots for the commercial buildings need to be moved to the back whenever possible, to preserve the residential street appearance).

The widening of Western Avenue in McKownville is not the answer.

Call Mr. John Poorman (see the above telephone number) and ask him for a copy of the RFP on McKownville. Call him back and tell him of your objections. Call 356-1980, Town of Guilderland, Supervisor Ken Runion and let him know that the RFP should be **WITHDRAWN**. Call and write your State Assembly member and/or Senator.

Published letters in the newspaper are especially important. Share this information with your neighbors. **Act now--the bulldozers may be closer to your front steps than you think.**

The McKownville Improvement Association is preparing to call another general meeting to discuss this, but more immediate questions can be answered by any of the Officers and Directors listed below.

McKownville Improvement Association Officers, 2001

President	Bill Meehan	7 Country Road	456-4564
Vice President	Don Reeb	5 Norwood Street	489-3909
Secretary	Kathy LeRoux	106 Arcadia Avenue	438-1947
Treasurer	Steve Berg	7 Elmwood Street	438-6795

Board Members

Alice Torda 2 Knowles Terrace 489-3613	Jill Messner 9 Warren Street 482-9125
John Smircich 60 Highland Drive 869-1256	Jim Cameron 15 Glenwood Street 489-2487
Susan Hotchkiss 212 Woodscape Drive 482-8848	Sue Brown 6 Waverly Place 482-2355