

# **McKownville Improvement Association**

Guiderland, New York 12203

Bill Meehan, President

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To: John Giarrusso, Director of Capital and Space Resource Management  
State University of New York at Albany, UAB 312  
From: McKownville improvement Association (contact person, Don Reeb)  
Subject: Plantings to Create a Noise Buffer  
Date: March 20, 2002

Again let me thank you for the fine presentation you made to the McKownville Improvement Association on October 2, 2001. McKownville residents are pleased to have the University as a neighbor. We use the University much like a public park and the University has always welcomed us. McKownville residents, whether employed at the University or not, are interested in what the University is doing, as you undoubtedly could tell from the questions.

We spoke briefly about plantings on a portion of the University "ring road" to buffer the noise from the road traffic. The strip along the ring road--University Drive West-- that is most relevant is south of the larger parking lot adjoining the RACC and north of the end of Knowles Terrace. Unlike the hilly portion that buffers the Holt-Harris property on the western edge of the RACC parking lot, this strip is flat or downward sloping to the residences and proceeds east from the hill. The portion of University Drive West that borders Knowles Terrace properties is about 500 feet long.

The rerouting of the road several years ago brought traffic closer to Knowles Terrace. The result is more noise for the residents.

Evergreen bushes, such as dwarf cypress, prostrate and various short yews, various arborvitae and the shorter common juniper, would be appropriate since they would neither grow tall nor lose their foliage during the winter. But also, the evergreen bushes would present a more bucolic appearance for University personnel driving or walking along that portion of the University ring road.

The cost should not be very great and, if burdensome in this time of State budget shortfalls, could be done incrementally, a few portions at a time.

The Association members hope that this improvement can be done during this coming planting season. If there is anything the Association can do to help this get done, you may call me at 489-3909.