

McKownville Improvement Association Founded, 1926



To: Mr. Joseph Boardman
Commissioner of Transportation, State of New York
1220 Washington Avenue, Bldg. 5, Room 506
Albany, New York 12232

From: Don Reeb, President, McKownville Improvement Association
5 Norwood Street
McKownville, New York 12203 (518-489-3909, dreeb@albany.edu)

Subject: The Northway in McKownville
Date: December 2, 2002

A portion of the Northway Extension, often referred to as the Fuller Road Alternate, specifically the portion on the east side and near Providence, Mercer and Warren streets in McKownville, is the focus of this request. The noise from the traffic on this highway is awful for the nearby residents. In addition, the sight of the high speed traffic is upsetting.

Many of the residents of these streets find that the use of their porches, decks and gardens for leisure is interfered with by the sight and noise of the Northway traffic while the noise from the traffic invades even the interior of their homes. These problems have gone on for much too long. Relief is needed.

Some months ago neighbors on these streets asked that the rumble strips in this section be removed and we appreciate that NYSDOT did this.

However, there is more work to be done. For example, the planting of trees and shrubs could reduce the sight of passing traffic. And a constructed hummock or other improvement could reduce the noise.

By making such changes the residents will have a more pleasant place to live.

It is important that compact neighborhoods like McKownville continue to be desirable places to reside. An alternative is the building of more suburban housing with the consequence of greater demand for highway use. Of course that has other undesirable effects like increased traffic accidents, air pollution and so forth.

The Association members would enjoy meeting with your representative. We are available to walk the site--it is probably no more than a quarter mile long-- and to work on the specific plan to alleviate these two undesirable conditions in our community.