

file

To: Mary Lou Bartolotta Connolly
Albany County Legislator
1232 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

From: McKownville Improvement Association (contact Don Reeb, 489-3909)

Subject: The Flyover and A Million Thanks

Date: January 7, 2004

Enclosed is a copy of the letter received from the Thruway Authority in response to the FOIL request for information concerning the Exit 24 Flyover. It contains almost no useful information, however.

More importantly, your concern for McKownville and helping us find the money to pay the expected Thruway charges was outstanding. We certainly did not plan on such generous help—just a few hours before you told me of the money I had told Ken Runion I was going to cancel the FOIL request because the Association could not afford it—and we will not soon forget it—I will make sure of that.

Obviously, we will not now need the money—but the help was given when it was needed—and I prefer to believe that someone interceded to convince the Authority that its charges were outrageous. Thank you again—for all the help. Also, I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent to Assemblyman McEneny thanking him. You are both so great.

The Authority has issued a report on the flyover, Draft Summary of Access Improvements, Albany Corridor Study, January 6, 2004. Page 25 contains a “two barrier concept” and this was briefly discussed in the Cathy Woodruff article in the Times Union on January 7, 2004. What it appears to say is that the toll booths will be removed from Exit 24 and the flyover will not be built. This is a wonderful alternative and one for which support can be created, with help.

The next meeting of the Association is January 22, Thursday, 7pm, Holiday Inn Express. Todd Gifford is the scheduled featured speaker—he is on the Thruway’s advisory panel for the Albany Corridor Study.

Thanks again—you came through like a champ.