

To: Members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), Albany Corridor Study
From: McKownville Improvement Association (contact Don Reeb, president, 489-3909)
Subject: Albany Corridor Study
Date: August 23, 2004

The Albany Corridor Study presents two different solutions to traffic tie-ups at the toll plazas or exits on the Thruway in the Capital District. The one is to construct high speed EZPass lanes--like Concept H--but please note that about 40% of vehicles do not use the EZPass.

The other--the Two barrier Concept--eliminates all tollbooths at the most congested toll plaza, Exit 24. Round trip tolls would be collected at Exit 23 and Exit 25. Three of the four stops commuters normally make to collect tickets and pay tolls each day would no longer be necessary. EZPass users would continue to pay round trip tolls electronically at Exit 23 and 25. In time savings, the Two Barrier Concept has obvious advantages for everyone. However, the Two Barrier Concept as outlined in the Draft Study includes the Western Avenue Flyover though Concept H does not.

After much study the McKownville Improvement Association concluded that a merger of Concept H and the Two Barrier Concept was not only feasible but presented numerous advantages. The new Concept provides significant savings--to commuters (in time of travel), to the Thruway Authority (in budget outlays), and to those of us living near Exit 24 (in noise). And the new merged Concept, as described in the accompanying five pages, improves in several additional ways Concept H and the Two Barrier Concept--by lessening the "weaving" through Exit 24 for example.

Make no mistake about it, we in McKownville continue to be unalterable opposed to the Western Avenue Flyover. The Association circulated a petition and has collected several hundred signatures in opposition to the Western Avenue Flyover. We continue to collect signatures in opposition to it. And we received the endorsement of the McKownville petition from all of our locally elected officials--Senator Breslin, Assemblyman McEneny, Supervisor Runion, County Legislator Commisso and others.

Thank you for taking the time to study this new Concept. We think you will like it. And thank you for serving on the PAC. No one has the time to do all that should be done and yet you agreed to serve on one more committee--your efforts are much appreciated.

CC: Diedre Rudolph; Milton Mitchell; Bruce Secor; Albert Deering; Robert Mitchell; Todd Gifford; Diane Marco; Michael Franchini; Latimer Schmidt; John Casellini; Rick Nevinger; Bob Davies; Frank Pallante; Heidi Firstencel; John Poorman; Willaim Clarke; Stephen Feeney; Bill Joyce; Michael Hawrylcw; Maurice Rasheed; Frank Commisso; Kristina Younger; Steve Iachetta