

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Ed. G. Zotto*  
*Sunday Sept 5, 2004*

## Regional round-trip toll better than flyover

The state Thruway Authority is conducting a study to improve the Thruway in the Capital Region. The draft plan includes repaving existing lanes as well as adding lanes, especially between Exit 23 and Exit 24.

But there are tie-ups at the toll plazas or exits, as well as along the Thruway. Exit 24 is horribly congested, which not only wastes commuters' time but also leads to many many accidents, as drivers weave through the traffic.

At hearings conducted by the Thruway, about a dozen plans were presented to reduce congestion at the toll booths. One involved constructing high speed E-Z Pass lanes, but it needs to be noted that many people do not use E-Z Pass.

An alternative plan is to remove the toll booths at Exit 24.

Round trip tolls would be collected at Exit 23 and Exit 25 instead. Rather than stopping four times to collect a Thruway ticket and then pay it every morning and afternoon, the driver would stop but once. The four stops now necessary each day would be reduced to one.

The obvious time savings would be huge. Moreover, with some modifications, Exit 24 could be improved to reduce the "weaving," and the plan that involves the construction of a Western Ave. flyover — a bridge crossing over Western Ave. near Crossgates — could be removed.

My neighborhood opposes the flyover because it would cause too much noise for Woodscape and Woodlake residents and others in McKown-

ville, as well as other problems. The McKownville Improvement Association has collected nearly 200 signatures on its petition in opposition to the flyover. And many of our elected officials — and others — have joined us in opposition.

Round trip tolls make sense for all commuters. (You can read more about the plans by going to the internet — <http://www.thruway.state.ny.us/studies/albany/pac.html>.)

**DON REEB**  
Albany

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