

# Legislator asks for cooperation

## Commisso urges local politicians to combine efforts

By STEPHEN PAUSE

Albany County Legislator Frank Commisso, D-Albany, has sent a letter out to state Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, and other local politicians, urging the state to work with the county, city of Albany, and town of Guilderland on the development of the McKownville area.

A number of separate projects have recently gained momentum, and Commisso expressed his desire to have the projects linked. In a previous letter to University at New York officials dated Jan. 18, he explained his concerns.

traffic, noise, loss of privacy for next-door neighbors and other quality of life issues should be addressed on a cumulative basis to determine the comprehensive impact," he said.

Among the projects in the area is a 250,000 square-foot expansion of the Fuller Road Nanotech complex, the development of the Harriman Campus half a mile

down Western Avenue (which is the center of a transportation study), and a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Fuller Road.

One of Commisso's main concerns

is the future of traffic, including that on Fuller Road. The County's Capital Program includes \$10.37 million for a project to repave the length of the road, but does not

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**Don Reeb**

□ **Cooperation Page 10**

"The impact that each has on



## Cooperation

(From Page 1)

include any plans to expand the existing roadway.

With so many jobs being added, Commission questioned the practicality of the work.

"My concern is that this may not be adequate to meet the needs, and that the money may well be wasted," he wrote.

Independent of the county project, the Capital District Transportation Committee has allotted \$4.8 million for a two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Fuller Road and Washington Avenue.

Commisso said it is "disturbing that there has been little or no interaction with other governmental jurisdictions responsible for the roads and streets in the impacted area."

Don Reeb, the president of the McKownville Improvement Association, said that in many ways, Commisso's letter does not go far enough.

"More involvement with the community and joint planning seems highly desirable, and it's not obvious to me why it has not been done previously," he said.

Reeb, who calculated that as

many as 30,000 people work in the area between the campus, Crossgates Mall, and the Harri-man Campus, said that there should be a forum for community input in such planning developments.

Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings said he was perplexed as to why Commisso would send such a letter to Breslin.

"He hasn't addressed any of these concerns with me," he said. "I don't understand why he feels that way."

Jennings said the ongoing development was one of the reasons the traffic study was being conducted, and called it premature to advance on something such as expanding Fuller Road without proper planning.

Jennings was certain that the interests of the residents were one of his main priorities.

"I'm not going to do anything to compromise anyone's ability to walk or jog or drive in the community," he said.

Efforts to reach Breslin and Guilderland Town Supervisor Ken Runion were unsuccessful. Michael Franchini, the commissioner of the Department of Public Works, who had also been sent a copy of the letter, had no comment.