

To: Assemblyman John McEneny  
From: Don Reeb, President, McKownville Improvement Association  
Subject: Parking Structure  
Date: May 31, 2007

As you may know, the McKownville Improvement Association endorsed the construction of a parking structure for the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. The memo from the Association to Professor Kaloyeros, dated May 8, 2007, is attached.

The memo does not address where that structure should be built.

Two conversations, the first with students in the ALPN 474 class at the University at Albany and Professor S. Thyagarajan and the second with Michael Philips, President, Harriman Research and Technology Development Corporation, led me to a recommendation for a site for the structure.

The parking structure need not be built on the 79.6 acres Fuller Road site, a portion of which the Nano College occupies. That acreage borders McKownville and Laughlin Street and neither really wants a parking structure nearby. It is a trade-off—to save more of the 79.6 acres and tolerate a parking structure or have even more of the acreage taken for surface parking. There is no doubt that the College will need more parking.

But with valet parking or as Professor Thyagarajan suggested that I term it, custodial parking, the structure could be anyplace nearby. Cell telephones make it easily possible to drive to the College, exit the car, have it driven to a nearby site and when needed have it delivered back to the College.

And, Michael Phillips suggested that a large Washington Avenue parking lot on the Harriman campus would be a wonderful location for the parking structure.

Moreover, the new arena being planned for downtown Albany needs parking facilities and, assuming that CDTA services were provided, the structure could also service patrons of that arena. And since the University at Albany will need more and more parking as enrolment expands and its sports teams become more popular, the parking structure, with suitable shuttle services, could also be of use to the larger University campus.

When you spoke at the McKownville meeting past Fall, prior to the election, you mentioned the need to provide shared parking, in response to my question about why there were no “park and ride” facilities for commuters traveling to downtown Albany along Western or Washington avenues.

It may not be possible to authorize a parking structure, but it does seem reasonable. Of course, many things seem reasonable if the hard work is shoved off to someone else.

Thank you—more than McKownville has benefited from your hard work..

cc: Professor Kaloyeros, Michael Phillips, Ken Runion, Professor Thyagarajan, Kathy Lowery, Association Board members