

—EDITORIALS—

Should Widen Turnpike in Albany County

ANNOUNCEMENT that Western Turnpike will be widened from the Albany County line to a point near Duaneburg, a distance of five miles, marks a first step toward a long needed improvement. While it will not eliminate the bottleneck all the way between Duaneburg and Albany it will be a very welcome expansion.

The new highway will be 40 feet in width and contracts probably will be let Dec. 1. Plans have been prepared by the State Department of Public Works and these call for covering the present concrete with bituminous macadam and the road will be widened four feet on each side with concrete as the material. The center black strip is considered a safety factor in night driving. The cost will be about \$400,000. The state will pay one-half and the federal government the rest.

While the public will be grateful for this new stretch, the unfortunate phase is that the highway in Albany County will not be widened because of inability to obtain rights of way. It is for the county to provide the right of way but Albany County thus far has not done so and at present there appears no likelihood that it will.

The new stretch in Schenectady County, however, may create a demand that the highway be widened in Albany County. It is too bad that this great artery across

New York State cannot be completed. It is one of the most traveled highways in the country and it would carry more traffic if it were wider and completed all through Route 20 by way of Cherry Valley. Several stretches remain to be improved.

The urgent need of widening Western Turnpike in Albany County from the city line onward cannot be disputed. In the summer and on weekends it would be difficult to find a more congested highway than Western Turnpike.

The narrow two-lane road belongs to a past age when traffic was only a fraction of its present volume. The highway as it is at present is dangerous and it has been the scene of many accidents, some of them serious. This road bears the burden of cross-state travel, which is growing greater each year. In the touring season long lines of cars are on the turnpike between the Albany city line and Duaneburg.

Buses which stop frequently add to the congestion and cars frequently try to pass others on this narrow width. The two-lane highway does not facilitate travel but rather impedes it.

Some way should be found to obtain the rights of way necessary so Western Turnpike can be made of suitable width from Albany onward.

THE DESTROYERS' GUN IS TRAINED - - - By Jerry

