

Meeting Slated On Route 20 Hazards

The State Traffic Commission has agreed to discuss with Guilderland town officials possible traffic safety measures for Route 20 in McKownville.

Guilderland Supervisor Gordon Robinson said that he and other Town Board members have been invited to meet with William S. Hultz, commission chairman, and safety engineers on a request for McKownville signal lights along the heavily traveled highway.

The invitation from the commissioner came in a reply to Mr. Robinson's strongly worded appeal of a few weeks ago urging the commission to act to prevent a recurrence of the auto-pedestrian accident on Route 20 that took the life of 10-year-old Judith Clark of McKownville.

The Guilderland supervisor said he expects the meeting to take place soon.

Mr. Robinson, at the urgent request of the McKownville Improvement association, had asked that a signal light be installed at the McKown Rd. intersection with Route 20. It was here that the young girl was struck by a car.

If this proposal is rejected, the supervisor suggests that the state commission consider at least one light somewhere in McKownville between the Albany city line and Fuller Rd. to provide a "break in traffic as an aid to pedestrians."

Four days before the McKownville girl was killed, the McKownville group had been turned down in its latest demand for a light at the McKown Rd. intersection. Following so closely on the state decision, the girl's death stirred strong resentment among some McKownville residents.

The Guilderland supervisor said he does not intend to limit the talks with the state officials to a signal light for the McKownville intersection.

The state's 45-mile per hour speed limit along Route 20 plus traffic safety conditions at the Johnson Rd. intersection—which is near Westmere Grade school—should also be brought into the discussions, Mr. Robinson said.

The speed limit has been of considerable concern to Guilderland officials who feel it should be reduced as a safety precaution for pedestrians who have to cross Route 20.