

McKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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October 4, 1977

Dear Commissioner Hennessy:

The members of the McKownville Improvement Association are interested in getting the latest available information regarding the plans to widen Western Avenue from the Albany city line to Gipp Road in Westmere. At a recent meeting of the Association a number of questions were raised, and some real concerns were expressed, which can only be answered adequately by some well informed members of your professional staff.

I have already spoken to some members of your staff and requested that they attend a meeting of the McKownville Improvement Association on Tuesday evening, October 11th, to be held at the Christ Lutheran Church, 1500 Western Avenue, at 8:00 PM for the purpose of bringing our association members up to date regarding the plans for widening Western Avenue. I understand that your department will be represented by three members of your staff at that meeting.

The following questions have been raised by some of our members which are indicative of the kinds of information we are interested in having your staff members present at the October 11th meeting. Will you please pass these questions along to your staff members with the request that they include the answers in their presentation at this meeting.

1. Why is this project being undertaken now after Western Avenue was resurfaced a year ago?
2. Has there been any recent studies made concerning accident and traffic counts, and, if so, how do the statistics compare with findings in previous studies?
3. Is the proposed 31 feet from the center of the road to include the bicycle path, or is the bicycle path in addition to the 31 foot expansion?
4. Do the plans for expansion include the taking of any real property, and, if so, at what locations? How will the residents and owners of business concerns be compensated?
5. Will it be necessary to remove some trees, and, if so, at what locations?
6. If some utility poles must be moved, where will they be moved to, and who will pay the cost of moving them?

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7. Will there be any off-the-highway parking area or strip, and, if so, how will this affect existing business parking areas?
8. How will existing drainage and storm sewer facilities be affected?
9. What state, county, or local municipality will be responsible for maintaining the bicycle path?
10. What will be done with the existing sidewalks? Do the plans include keeping and maintaining those now in existence?
11. How will the present traffic light system be changed or modified?
12. What effect will the widening of Western Avenue have upon property values, the public image of McKownville as a desirable residential community, and the future population and economic stability of McKownville?

You can readily see, Commissioner Hennessy, that the residents of this little community of McKownville have some genuine concerns about what effect the plans to widen Western Avenue will have on the residential and business property that lies directly along Western Avenue, as well as what effect it may have to the community as a whole.

Your cooperation in passing along these questions and concerns to the staff members who will be representing your department at the October 11th meeting of The McKownville Improvement Association will be greatly appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a personal invitation to you to attend this October 11th meeting if your time and schedule will permit.

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Reeb, President
McKownville Improvement Association

DJR:JW

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Several Area Newspapers