

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
McKOWNVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND
ALBANY COUNTY

1250 WESTERN AVENUE
McKOWNVILLE, N. Y.
(ALBANY 12203)

June 12, 1979

Mr. William C. Hennessey, Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
Building #5, State Office Campus
1220 Washington Ave.
Albany, N. Y. 12232

Dear Sir:

On Friday, June 8, 1979, the traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue, Route 20, SH5155, with McKown Road and Norwood Street in the Hamlet of McKownville, Town of Guilderland, was removed including supporting poles and appurtenances.

Inquiries to Traffic and Safety personnel of Region 1 evoked conflicting answers. We were advised that the pole and the light had been hit and damaged, but also advised that there was no intent to replace this signal. We were also advised that a study of traffic volumes would be undertaken--this after the light had been removed.

Removal of this signal poses an unwarranted inconvenience for residents of McKownville, but also creates a direct problem for operation of the McKownville Fire Department. The traffic signal at this intersection--equipped, as it was, with a pre-emption sensor--provided a protected means of egress onto Route 20 for firemen attempting to reach the firehouse to respond to emergencies from the residential areas on both sides of Western Avenue. More than ten of the most active volunteer firefighters are involved.

This signal also provided the only traffic interrupter between Fuller Road and the Albany City Line. The traffic breaks it provided were the only means for residents and firemen alike to exit from the side streets--including Brookwood Avenue where the firehouse is located--and for pedestrians to cross Western Avenue. There were fatalities prior to installation of the signal.

We implore you to take immediate steps to have a new signal, with pre-emption capability, installed at once to replace the one removed. Please advise this Board what action will be taken.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Board of Fire Commissioners
McKownville Fire District

Irred B. Abele
Fire District Secretary

Mr. William C. Hennessey

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June 12, 1979

cc: Assemblyman Michael Hoblock
Senator Howard Nolan
Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters
Mr. C. E. Carlson, Regional Director, Region 1