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Board Protests Rt. 20 Widening

By CARLO WOLFF
Gazette Reporter

GUILDERLAND — The Guilderland Town Board has joined other Crossgates opponents in protesting the planned widening of Route 20 — Western Avenue — in the event the \$85 million shopping mall is built by Pyramid Crossgates Co.

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In a letter he sent to Robert F. Flacke Monday, Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters reaffirmed board concern over the proposed Alternate 4, which the board feels is "unacceptable to the town." Flacke is commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Alternate 4 calls for the widening of Western Avenue near Crossgates in the eastern section of town, construction of new ramps and a new county road.

Alternate 4 plans "would create an insufferable inconvenience for the people of our

town," the letter said, adding the board "feels strongly that modern traffic engineers have the capability of developing traffic patterns which will satisfy the needs" of local residents.

The board doesn't want any traffic increase along Western, the letter said.

Similar sentiments have been expressed by the McKownville Fire District Board of Commissioners and by Concerned Citizens Against Crossgates.

The DEC has yet to rule on 11 environmental permits the Syracuse-based developer needs before approaching the town zoning board for variances and special use permits. Action on the permits may come as early as late June.

Concerned parties have until Friday to submit information contradicting material Pyramid furnished DEC last month, and if DEC determines the counter-claims warrant it, it will decide on Friday, April 10, whether to hold a public hearing on the matter on Tuesday, April 28.