

Mall planners air traffic alterations

Pyramid Crossgates Co., developer of the proposed \$85 million Crossgates shopping mall in Guilderland, Wednesday suggested changes to its original traffic design in an effort to end criticism of the design.

An opponent of the mall, Lindsay Childs, a resident of McKownville, called the changes "marginal improvements."

The state Department of Environmental Conservation, which is charged with review of the project, has said levels of car exhaust are too high under the original design.

Bruce Kenan, managing partner of the development firm, said his engineers have suggested minor alterations to the Western Avenue and Northway exit intersection.

According to Kenan, the alterations, which are intended to reduce the levels of car exhaust, call for an end to stopping for cars turning right at Schoolhouse Road and the Northway entrance and reducing the number of lanes of Western Avenue going west from four to three.

"By eliminating one lane," Kenan said, "the line-up of cars is stretched out . . . so the air quality problems goes away."

Kenan submitted the proposals to the Department of Environmental Conservation as requested last week by Environmental Conservation Robert F. Flacke.

Flacke is scheduled to announce a decision on 11 permits, including four necessary for road improvements, before July 1. Kenan's firm has proposed \$6 million in road improvements, including such controversial changes as widening Western Avenue and building a ramp from the Northway to a road encircling the mall.

The mall is proposed for 169 acres in between Western Avenue, Washington Avenue Extension, the Thruway and Rapp Road.

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