

# Albany County road proposals face review

By **DEBBY BOUYEA**

**Knickerbocker News Reporter**

The staff of the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) will review five Albany County road improvement proposals in December, according to County Engineer Fredric M. Doeing.

If the proposals are approved, funding available through CDTC from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), will be used toward those improvements.

The work is proposed for Albany Shaker Road from Wolf Road to the Albany County Airport and portions of Fuller, New Karner, Schoolhouse and Sand Creek roads, Doeing said.

A proposal to widen Fuller Road to four lanes between Washington and Western avenues in Guilderland has drawn criticism from the McKownville Improvement Association.

In a letter to Guilderland Town Supervisor Kevin Moss, the neighborhood association said widening Fuller Road would have a "very negative impact on the residences on both sides of Fuller."

The proposal also calls for installation of a sidewalk between the State University at Albany driveway and Mercer Street

and a bike lane along the entire route.

"There are some right-of-way problems by the cemetery and residents along certain areas," Doeing said. However, the proposal will remain as is for the funding review, he added.

Doeing said the county would like to address the association's concerns and "work with the community" on the road improvements.

The five proposals were submitted as part of ongoing requests for federal and state funding, which can only be obtained through CDTC, according to Doeing.

TIP is a five-year plan for funding road projects throughout the area.

"The funding typically is in the neighborhood of 75% federal, 19% state and 6% is local," Doeing said. He did not know how much money would be available for the projects.

The road projects would be independent of those covered by the \$6.8 million Albany County road construction bond, Doeing said.

Once the review is complete, he said, the CDTC staff will make recommendations. During January, a subcommittee or

planning committee would meet to evaluate the projects and establish priorities.

The final decision on road improvements to be included on the list for funding "probably won't be (made) until the end of February or first of March," Doeing said.

Albany County Attorney Robert Lyman said the work proposed for Albany Shaker Road was "going to the head of the TIP."

The plan calls for "spot improvements along the corridor to address existing traffic needs and projected traffic volume increases."

Lyman said the plan called for widening Albany Shaker Road from Wolf Road to the Albany County Airport and was necessary to provide "access to Heritage Park and to the airport."

Besides improvements on Albany Shaker and Fuller roads, other proposals include:

- The widening of New Karner Road to four lanes from the intersection with Route 5 to the intersection with Route 20. The road runs through Albany, Colonie and Guilderland. The plan also calls for installation of a bike path and turning lanes at the intersections with Route 5 and

the Industrial Park entrance.

- Improvements along Schoolhouse Road in Guilderland and Bethlehem, including widening the roadway with paved shoulders, correcting site distance problems and realignment of some horizontal and vertical curves.

Albany County Department of Public Works Commissioner Amos E. Hallenbeck said there were some "right-of-way problems" with Schoolhouse Road where residential lawns come out to the road.

But he said since "there has always been a high volume of traffic on that road" which "probably will increase with the entrance to Crossgates (Shopping Mall)" improvements are needed.

- Additional turning lanes and traffic signal improvements on Sand Creek Road in Colonie at the intersections with Osborne, Everett and Watervliet Shaker roads.

The county also requested that remaining funds in the Albany Shaker Road project be assigned to a separate project to improve an existing signals and to provide turning lanes and traffic islands at the intersection of Albany Shaker and Everett roads.