McKownville Improvement Association Monthly Public Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2006, 7-9pm Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue

The Harriman campus—330 acres—also called the New York State Office Building campus—is located between Brevator and the University at Albany campus and between Western Avenue and Washington Avenue and there are plans for its redevelopment. Though the Harriman campus does not border McKownville, its redevelopment could change McKownville as much as did the development of the University forty years ago or Crossgates twenty years ago.

Mr. Tim Dunn from the Harriman Research and Technology Corporation will be the guest speaker. The plans being developed for reuse of the campus include---maybe---office buildings and a hotel along the Washington Avenue boundary with homes between the new office buildings and Western Avenue. Possibly a lake will be added, an amphitheater and park areas. Possibly two new north/south streets. One from approximately the Homestead/Western Avenue intersection to Washington Avenue. Maybe another from the Orlando/Western Avenue intersection to near Washington Avenue. There will be maps and displays at the meeting to better explain the plans.

One concern of McKownville---maybe the overwhelming concern---has to be any additional traffic on Western Avenue in McKownville stemming from the redevelopment of the Harriman campus. The traffic count on Western Avenue continues to increase. The McKownville Corridor Study called for traffic calming on Western and everyone agrees that the noise and other negative impacts from traffic Western need be reduced.

The replanning of the Harriman campus and its traffic is a great opportunity for McKownville to get some relief from the overuse of Western Avenue. As long as Western Avenue has heavy and increasing traffic, it will be difficult to bring McKownville together. People living on the north side of Western Avenue should not be isolated from those living on the south side. We are one place and should be able to travel back and forth across our streets—as well as up and down our streets—safely.

What else? The Board of the Association has met with the people from Harriman; we will be meeting with the people from NanoTech; discussions are ongoing concerning Jim Barber's farm stand; the contracts for construction of the sidewalks (at 1450 Western and on McKown Road) are in process but no firm date yet for installation. The Trees committee has sent in the orders for trees. Thank you very much for your tree orders. And the May 11 public meeting with President Hall is scheduled.

Officers

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