



# To the editor

*Nano College not a good neighbor*

## Don't flood our homes, and don't make crossing Fuller Road a life-or-death sprint

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the July 22 public information meeting for the Fuller Road (Route 156) and Washington Avenue Intersection Improvement Project, attended by 90 to 150 affected residents...

While I do not agree with Alternative 3, two pivotal points were raised by the residents that attended the meeting. One was the introduction of stormwater from the College of Nano Science site, and potentially the stormwater from the new interchange into the system that serves Guilderland. The second was the traffic generated by the favored solution – Alternative 3, as a quality-of-life issue for those that live on, or off of, Fuller Road.

Regarding the stormwater: My wife and I have lived at 31 Providence Street for 42 years. While we miss the patch of woods that once stretched from Mercer Street to Washington Avenue Extension, we both realize that the land is owned by the State University of New York and, as such, it has every right to develop it in a reasonable and prudent manner.

In excavating our site for the addition, and in the excavation that Plants had to undertake to replace their collapsed foundation wall, and in the excavation for the new house at 21 Providence Street, there was one common observation: Between five and six feet below the surface, there exists a six-inch or so layer of very hard impervious material.

Water filters through the Guilderland sand, hits this impervious layer, and runs downhill along it. Ultimately, it winds up in our basements.

If the retention ponds were lined and had recharge wells that would direct the trapped water to a lower stratum that could absorb the water in a benign fashion, a sizable number of our problems would disappear.

Being a good neighbor is not a difficult or even costly accomplishment. The homes to the south of, and downhill from

Avenue. Peak flows, I assume, will coincide with the same times that the residents will be leaving for, or returning from work.

No one minds waiting a minute to get onto, or off of, Fuller Road, but no one wants to spend several minutes praying for an opening. Likewise, and more importantly, pedestrians will stand little or no chance crossing Fuller Road.

The current speed limit on Fuller Road is 40 miles per hour. That means that a high percentage of motorists do 45 to 50.

Mr. [Michael] Franchini indicated that the newly reconstructed road would have the same speed limit as is currently in force and that he did not have the authority to lower the speed limit. The latter was the prevue of the New York State Department of Transportation in conjunction with the town. Further, he indicated that no other feature(s) were planned for in the reconstruction that

would allow pedestrians a level of safety in crossing Fuller Road.

In the 41 years we have lived here, Fuller Road has gone from a fairly quiet residential

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SUNY Albany first broke ground for the College of Nano Science in 2002, and since then both my neighbors and myself have experienced water problems.

In 2008, a particularly dry spring, we had to abandon an addition to our residence. The reason was ground water. Mr. and Mrs. Plant and their six children at 29 Providence Street lost the north wall of their foundation in the same year. The ultimate cause of the collapse was ground water.

A new home was built at 21 Providence Street in 2009. The basement floor had to be raised and, for a two-week period, various measures were undertaken to address the ground-water problem. The house sits conspicuously higher than the adjoining residences...

The College of Nano Science took a wooded site and turned it into hard surfaces (roofs, walks, and parking lots). The stormwater was either put into the stormwater system that serves Guilderland, or it was re-introduced into the ground in a number of shallow retention ponds.

CNSE have been there since the 1940's. There may even be some original residents. CNSE is a new neighbor and, to date, has not been a good one.

Regarding the quality of life issue: Do no harm is a tenant of the medical profession that should be applied to road design as well.

There are probably between 200 and 300 people who live on, or directly off of, Fuller Road. Currently, there are red lights on Fuller Road at Washington Avenue Extension, Tricentennial Drive, the northeast entrance to Executive Park, and Western Avenue.

All afford some pause in the flow of traffic along Fuller Road. This pause allows pedestrians to cross the Fuller Road. It also allows vehicles to enter or exit from the homes or residential streets that border Fuller Road.

The proposed roundabouts at the intersections of Fuller Road and Washington Avenue Extension, and Fuller Road and Tricentennial Drive will keep traffic flowing until it ultimately must stop at the northeast entrance to Executive Park and/or Western

area to a very busy thoroughfare. The problem is no municipality has had the vision to provide a high volume, north-south connector between Central Avenue and Western and Washington Avenue. Route 155 was expanded several years ago, but the next major north-south link is Fuller Road. Every other cross connection is a series of smaller streets near and including Colvin Avenue.

Albany, Colonie and Guilderland have all allowed growth along the east-west arteries, but no one has considered the infrastructure to support it. The residents of Fuller Road, or any other neighborhood for that matter, should not have to suffer because no one has the foresight to solve the problem or because the right solution will add several thousand dollars to a multi-million project.

Progress versus quality of life does not have to be an either or decision. We are not asking anyone to turn the clock back 40 years, just don't flood our homes, and don't make crossing Fuller Road a life or death sprint.

**William H. Goergen  
McKownville**