

McKownville's Storm Water and the Reconstruction of the Fuller Road-Washington Avenue Intersection

For those readers who attended the Thursday July 22, 2010 meeting at NanoTech concerning the Fuller Road-Washington Avenue intersection reconstruction being proposed by Albany County, you heard about 90-150 persons raise questions about pedestrian and bike rider safety, noise from the proposed bridge to be constructed and its maintenance costs, the difficulty of persons living along Fuller Road to enter the highway with an uninterrupted stream of traffic that will result when the building of several roundabouts along Fuller Road occurs and the problems of CDTA passenger gaining access to potential bus service along the corridor.

Then you heard Steve Janack, vice president at NanoTech, create a diversion by attacking me, Don Reeb, claiming that I was completely unaware of the storm water problems in McKownville. While no one had mentioned McKownville's storm water problems before his attack, this author responded with an explanation that is worth repeating, as best as I remember my remarks.

McKownville as a sustainable neighborhood is threatened by flooding problems. These emanate from the paving over of acres of land in the vicinity of McKownville beginning in the 1950's---Stuyvesant Plaza and its office buildings, Crossgates and Crossgates Commons, the Thruway, the Northway, the University at Albany and NanoTech. The latter not only was built on vacant land near McKownville but then it directed its storm water, which had been going north into Patroon Creek, to the south and into McKownville.

Repeated requests to NanoTech to get its storm water out of McKownville have gone unheeded. Assemblyman McEneny at the Thursday night meeting suggested that with the reconstruction of the Fuller Road-Washington Avenue intersection the contractors could redirect the NanoTech storm water away from McKownville and back into the Patroon Creek where it belongs. The suggestion was ignored by Janack.

McKownville needs help—storm waters have already destroyed the foundation of one McKownville home—is it that hard for NanoTech to become a responsible neighbor and gets its storm water redirected back north where it belongs.

The one thousand homes in McKownville are at risk—please help us convince our elected officials that the threat is immediate and serious—call or write Assemblyman Jack McEneny, Senator Neil Breslin, County Executive Michael Breslin, County Legislator Frank Commisso, Mayor Jerry Jennings and Governor David Paterson that McKownville is worth preserving. The redirection of the storm waters north by NanoTech would cost pennies in comparison to the \$14 or so millions slated for the reconstruction of the intersection. Much help is needed and Guilderland has commissioned a storm water survey so that we can begin to work through the solutions to our flooding problem—but getting NanoTech storm water out of McKownville is one important step .

I can forward your message to the elected officials, if that is more convenient. My email address is included below.

Don Reeb, President, McKownville Improvement Association,
dreeb@albany.edu

donreeb@gmail.com