

McKownville irate at delay in

Question: Would you say a traffic light that was installed after four people were snuffed out in accidents at an intersection should become a permanent fixture?

The traffic light was at Western Avenue, at intersection of Norwood Street and McKown Road; both flow into Western from opposite sides.

Last Friday NYS's Dep't of Transportation removed the signal because of damage done by a heap that ran into the supporting pole.

The McKownville Improvement Association wants the light reinstalled. NYS's Colossus of Roads is apparently hesitating. More than 100 users of the light—that-once-was-on have called Guilderland Town Hall in protest.

Don Reeb, prexy of the improvement association, says DOT has made a traffic count, but it has not been "analyzed" as yet. (DOT may be waiting for another death before a decision is made.)

At any rate, Reeb says it took his association several years to get the light and once it was installed, it became, in essence, a blinking monument to those who succumbed at the site. The intersection, says Reeb, is the only four-corner one in McKownville, "and the only place that pedestrians can cross with some safety."

The gentleman has a point, and proves it in this fashion: "With no sidewalk on the south side, residents from the south side of Western Avenue cross at McKown Road to walk along Western Avenue. With 1450 Western Ave. again being filled with tenants, with the racquetball club being built on McKown Road, with the bus stop and the mail box at the intersection, with persons living on Glenwood and Waverly depending on the stop-and-go traffic to provide them access to Western Avenue, as well as the residents of Brookwood, Westlyn Place, Westlyn Court, Arye Drive, Short Street, East Dillenbeck Drive and West Dillenbeck Drive, McKownville NEEDS THAT TRAFFIC LIGHT."

What is boils down to, apparently, is DOT is perched on the fence, or was up to late yesterday afternoon, figuring whether to say yea or nay.

One would imagine a death spot would receive priority. I'm not a great believer in a flood of lights, but on Western Avenue, of all places, at an important intersection, the installation of a new one should be prompt. DOT may indeed analyze traffic flow, but I think I'll go along with residents of the area who know the peculiarities of this former death spot. Meantime, Reeb is asking those who favor the reincarnation of the red, amber and green, to call Guilderland Town Hall, 356-1501.

The lady who answers tells me she's had more than 100. Guilderland Town Supervisor Carl Walters tells me as of yesterday, his phone has been ringing constantly.

replacing traffic light

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PHOTO