

116

THE ROUTE 74 ASSOCIATION

Founded 1978

NEWSLETTER

Vol. II. No. 1

July 1979

---

Following a meeting of our directors July 8th we have talked with Department of Transportation Commissioner William Hennessey and the Department's Regional Director Charles Carlson. Discussions included improvement of the present route for automobile traffic and two alternate truck routes we proposed to DOT last fall. They are shown on the enclosed map. Through the persistence of Vice President Charles Whitney, DOT officials came here last November and travelled these alternate routes with Mr. Whitney and Directors Graham Davis, Louise Haberly and Karl Krauss. Treasurer Ted Dobbs joined the other directors in a preliminary planning session.

These proposed truck routes were then studied by the DOT's regional engineer who reported to us in June. His appraisal of them deals with rights of way, invasion of Forest Preserve and wet lands, vertical and horizontal alignments and cost. In conclusion he said that our proposed alternates "do not meet the Department's goals and objectives." He offered no similar analysis of the several alternate routes under consideration by the Department of Transportation so we cannot make comparisons relative to costs or any of the other criteria he applied to our proposals.

In our subsequent conversations with Commissioner Hennessey and Director Carlson it came about that the entire longer-range problem surrounding Route 74 will be turned over to an independent engineering consulting firm who will approach it "afresh", with "an open mind" and without any sense of prior commitment to any plan proposed thus far. They will do a thorough job including noise impact studies and air pollution analyses. We are told that the dollar cost of construction is not the deciding factor. We are assured that the planning will reflect sensitivity to the concerns of our members relative to Route 74.

Thus the Department of Transportation will now, according to Mr. Carlson, "start again from scratch." He pledges that he will work with us "every step of the way." The Department's expressed openness to "fresh thinking" is an invitation that should challenge us all.

IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT  
AND MAINTENANCE URGED

Apart from the longer-range solution to the Route 74 problem we have stressed to the Department of Transportation the immediate need for maintenance and improvements, including resurfacing, repainting the lines, and elimination of dangerous curves and poor drainage areas. Emphasizing that the road must be improved and made safer for auto traffic, we have told the Department, "A safer Route 74 is of prime importance to our members; those vacationing here as well as those commuting over the road year-round."

INT'L PAPER CO. MGR ENDORSES  
EFFORTS OF RTE 74 ASSOCIATION

On June 5th your president met with Mr. Michael Amick, Manager of International Paper Co. in Ticonderoga, for a discussion exploring IP's interests as they relate to our objectives. With respect to our proposed alternate truck routes, Mr. Amick stated, "We'd favor any route that provides a better access than the present one."

With accord developed with the area's largest employer, as well as with the towns of Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake, we are now in a position to move forward in our dealings with the State to achieve a solution that will serve all interests and "preserve the aesthetic, ecological and economic values of the Route 74 area."

PARADOX SIGNS  
ON NORTHWAY

We still await restoration of the Paradox Lake sign at Exit 28 of the northbound lane of the Northway which was removed two years ago to add another sign for Crown Point. A subsequent plan to erect a new type of sign all along the Northway brought suspension of interim changes. The new plan is still a matter of controversy between Federal and State bodies and DOT claims it is stymied. We have stressed the need for recognition of Paradox and Eagle Lakes and have urged, especially since there are now several Crown Point signs at this exit, that at least the preexisting Paradox Lake sign, now covered by "Crown Point 25 mi", be uncovered. This Mr. Carlson will try to do. New signs for Paradox and Eagle Lakes could not be erected, he said, until the "next construction year."

MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Thanks to some of our hardworking members who have continued throughout the winter to spread the word and enlist new members, our total membership now stands at about 100. Credit is due especially to Graham Davis, Edith Gonyea and our membership chairman, Joseph Kane.

We need the united determination of all members as well as the added strength of many more new members. If every member will bring in one or more new members we can achieve a membership strength of over 200 before our next annual meeting. Will YOU help?

-----

Application for membership in THE ROUTE 74 ASSOCIATION

Name (state if Mr. & Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Winter \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person who sponsors you: \_\_\_\_\_