

Letter, Mc Coy 12/11 3/11 1/30 Sept. 27
from New York City

344 Sheridan Ave.
Albany, New York
12206
11 June 1997

Editor
Times Union
Dear Editor:

Is downtown Albany to become like a Mayan city in a late stage of decline? A governmental and ceremonial center, but not a likely place in which to live? Mayor Jennings recently said that some more State buildings "will bring more consumers to downtown." Well! these buildings won't bring more jobs. They won't bring more residents either. I wonder if the new offices will really bring many more consumers. In case some haven't noticed, there's been a few changes in transportation since 1797, when the first State Office Building was built in Albany. Most of those re-shifted State workers will drive out of their grand new downtown garage to their suburban homes, at the rush hour. They will then, drive to various malls located at ex farms, to shop.

Places like Colonie, Clifton Park, Bethlehem, Niskayuna, and Guilerland are growing as bedroom communities, and suburban life places. At the same time; Albany is become more depopulated, and it's downtown is turning more and more into a lunch room/ lunch wagon community, and commuter workplace. There's an obvious and direct relationship between these things. These are all problems attendant upon the accelerating progression of our destructive suburb oriented car culture. These problems will not be overcome by ignoring them, and certainly not by contributing to them. Albany needs more than more State offices, and street trimmings.

Very truly,
John Wolcott
John Wolcott
Tel. 465-8930

P.S. Just a few for instances:

Utilization of empty, near empty, and partially empty buildings in downtown.
City should own, and even construct buildings, retain ownership, then lease them to the State on favorable terms conditional upon their

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