

Six reasons Gateway Connector isn't needed

To the Editor,

I read with interest the recent article in the Dec. 31 Belleville news Democrat citing a "debate" on the Gateway Connector. I find it rather frustrating that this is even a topic of discussion for elected officials and IDOT since the evidence is clear that no such roadway is needed.

There are adequate roadways to move the population from Columbia to Troy via I255/I55. To build another roadway would only destroy more Illinois green space further harming our environment. It would also unnecessarily obliterate very fertile farm ground.

Reasons we don't need the Gateway Connector:

1. Population growth is minimal — less than 4,000 people in 36 years. (Check the census.)

2. The population in and near the proposed gateway Connector do not want to live next door to big box retailers or strip malls which are built along highways.

3. Building more roads only creates more traffic and encourages longer commutes, thus increasing oil/gas usage. (Check the

traffic studies.)

4. Building the Gateway Connector to encourage growth only pulls growth from neighboring communities and does not promote a strong cohesive region. (It does pit one community against another.)

5. The state budget cannot afford another highway. IDOT is not keeping up with the maintenance on the existing roadways/bridges as it is.

6. The Gateway Connector is disrespectful to the heritage of homes and farms of the Metro East, some of which are in their fifth generation.

I sincerely believe that the only people who will really benefit from the Gateway Connector are the developers. We, the citizens for smart growth, are not interested in lining the pockets of big developers. I encourage the elected officials of Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties to stand up for your constituency and let everyone know that the Gateway Connector does not need to be funded.

Marty Ganz
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