

SUNY ALBANY
CAPITAL PROJECT PLAN
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)
(6 NYCRR Part 617)
AMENDED STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Date: April 16, 2010

Lead Agency: University at Albany, SUNY
Address: Errol Millington, Director
 Office of Campus Planning
 University at Albany, SUNY
 1400 Washington Avenue, Service Building A
 Albany, NY 12222

Name of Action: Capital Project Plan

Description of Action: The University has developed a Capital Project Plan that encompasses the foreseeable capital needs of the Uptown campus over a five year planning horizon. The Capital Project Plan is largely focused on advancing the goal of renovating the existing physical assets of the University.

The following table provides a summary of the projects that constitute this Capital Project Plan.

Table 1. Capital Project List.

Project Name	Project Description	Approximate Construction Start
1. Student Housing Project	Construction of new student housing facilities with approximately 500 apartment-style beds	June 2010
2. Campus Center Master Plan	Construction of student activity and surge space of approximately 50,000 square feet (sq ft) under roof	Fall 2011
3. Construct New Business School Building	Construct new 90,000 sq ft academic facility	Summer 2010
4. Relocate Data Center	Relocate campus Data Center to another site on campus	Spring 2011
5. Implement Various Athletics Improvements	Phased series of improvements to athletics facilities, to include a new multi-use athletic facility (possibly a phased project).	Spring 2010
6. Purple Path Continuation	Construction of the Purple Path to encircle and incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths around the perimeter of the Uptown Campus	Spring 2011

Table 1. Capital Project List.

Project Name	Project Description	Approximate Construction Start
7. Northern Landscape Improvement Project	Perform activities consistent with Landscape Master Plan	Spring 2012
8. State Quad Parking Lot Expansion	Add approximately 250 spaces to west side of State Quad parking lot	May 2010
9. Multi-Discipline Science Surge Building	Construction of academic building of approximately 150,000 sq ft to facilitate Podium renovations	Fall 2013
10. Service Building Renovation	Add approximately 24,000 sq ft addition for vehicle operations, small engine and metal shops	Fall 2010
11. Entry Improvements	Improve entrance aesthetics and safety at Washington and Western Avenues	2011
12. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	Based on recommendations in the Harriman – University at Albany Linkage Study, locate Bus Rapid Transit stations on campus	2013
13. Bicycle-Pedestrian Path	Develop a network of paths, improving connections between each quad, the Podium, and the Purple Path	2011

The elements of the Capital Project Plan have further been described in the DGEIS and FGEIS. The information contained in the DGEIS and FGEIS have provided the environmental, social and economic considerations that have been weighed in making decisions about the Capital Project Plan.

Regulatory Basis for this Notice: Pursuant to Article 8 (SEQRA) of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and its implementing regulations (specifically, 6 New York Code, Rules and Regulations [6 NYCRR] Part 617.10(d)(2)), the University at Albany, SUNY as SEQRA Lead Agency issued a Findings Statement on March 5, 2010 with respect to the above action. A question has been raised by an Involved Agency regarding whether the 3.3 acre parcel on the Harriman Campus, directly adjacent to and identified as a component of Project 1, the Student Housing Project, was evaluated in the SEQRA process for this action.

University at Albany, SUNY, in its role as Lead Agency, consulted with the Involved Agency regarding this question. University at Albany, SUNY reviewed the record in this matter. It is important that the record be clear as to what the Facts and Conclusions in the EIS were that the University relied upon to support its Findings Statement of March 5, 2010. For that reason, the University takes note of the following:

1. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), dated January 22, 2010, at Section 1.3, "Project Description," page 18, in the description of the Student Housing Project, it is noted that:

"At the time of the writing this DGEIS document, the University has had two open meetings with concerned neighbors focusing on this project (September 17, 2009 and October 29, 2009). In response to stated concerns, plans were developed to design a relocation of the University's Perimeter Road so that the road is moved towards the property line and housing and associated parking are moved further to the center of the campus, as far away from neighboring houses and sight lines as is possible (see Figure

1.3-2). The project designs also included an earthen berm which would screen the roadway and an aggressive planting plant to provide a more impressive natural buffer to the developed site. Scaled site elevation drawings were provided at the October 29, 2009 meeting to demonstrate the minimized visual impact of the project (see Figure 1.3-3). To accommodate this site arrangement, the University is working with Harriman Research and Technology Development Corporation (HRTDC) and NYSOGS to acquire 3.3 acres of adjacent State land (on the Harriman campus) to facilitate these site configuration concepts that will minimize impacts on adjacent neighborhoods (see dotted line area in Figure 1.3-2).”

2. On Figure 1.3-2 of the DGEIS noted above, the 3.3-acre parcel is noted as an integral portion of the project site for the Student Housing Project. This indicates that the evaluation performed pursuant to SEQRA and documented in the DGEIS included the 3.3-acre parcel.
3. On Figure 3.1-1 (“Soil Survey”) of the DGEIS, the outline of the “Uptown Campus for DGEIS” includes the 3.3-acre parcel. This indicates that the evaluation performed pursuant to SEQRA and documented in the DGEIS included the 3.3-acre parcel.
4. On Figure 3.10-1 (“Primary Road Networks”) of the DGEIS, the outline of the “Uptown Campus for DGEIS” includes the 3.3-acre parcel. This indicates that the evaluation performed pursuant to SEQRA and documented in the DGEIS included the 3.3-acre parcel.
5. Similarly, in the DGEIS on Figures 3.2-1 (“Regional Surface Water Features”), 3.2-2 (“Local Surface Water Features”), 3.4-1 (“Sensitive Receptors”), 3.7-1 (“National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map”), 3.9-1 (“National & State Register of Historic Places/Archaeological Sensitive Areas”), 3.13-2 (“City of Albany and Town of Guilderland Parks”), and 3.13-3 (“UAlbany Athletic and Recreational Facilities – Uptown Campus”), the figures indicate the outline of the “Uptown Campus for DGEIS,” which includes the 3.3-acre parcel. This indicates that the evaluation performed pursuant to SEQRA and documented in the DGEIS included the 3.3-acre parcel.
6. Appendix C of the DGEIS, “Student Housing Project Site, Wetlands Survey Map,” includes a map of the proposed Student Housing Project site, with a legend that indicates the identified outline of the “Site Area.” The outline indicated on the figure includes the 3.3-acre parcel, and the figure depicts the findings of the wetlands survey performed at the entire Student Housing Project, including activities on the 3.3-acre parcel.

Based on its review of the record in this matter, University at Albany, SUNY, as Lead Agency for this action pursuant to SEQRA, finds that the record is clear that the DGEIS adequately reflects and documents the assumption that the 3.3-acre parcel will be obtained from New York State for use in the Student Housing Project, and that the 3.3-acre parcel was incorporated into the calculations and data analyzed in the environmental impact evaluation as documented in the EIS for this action.

It is concluded by University at Albany, SUNY, as Lead Agency, that a supplemental EIS is not required to address this matter, and that no further SEQRA compliance is required at this time with respect to the 3.3-acre parcel in connection with the actions that the Lead Agency is undertaking in furtherance of the Capital Project Plan.

Name of Agency: University at Albany, SUNY
Address of Agency: University at Albany, SUNY
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222

Name of Responsible Official:

Steve Beditz

Title of Responsible Official:

Interim Vice President of Finance and Business

Date: April 16, 2010

Signature of Responsible Official:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Beditz', is written over a faint horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.