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In the Matter of the
DGEIS Public Scoping Meeting
on the Proposed Capital Projects

The following DGEIS Public Scoping
Meeting was held at the University of Albany,
1300 Washington Avenue, Albany New York on
March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall of
Fame Room located at the SEFCU Arena.

A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S:

STUART J. SPIEGEL

Vice President
O'Brien & Gere
5000 Brittonfield Parkway
East Syracuse, New York 13057

24 MELANIE K. CONKLIN

25 Design Engineer
O'Brien & Gere

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2

1 JOHN GIARRUSSO,
2 Assistant Vice President for
3 Physical Facilities

4 ERROL C. MILLINGTON,
5 Senior Staff Associate

7
8 S-P-E-A-K-E-R-S:

9	Name	Page
10		
11	Mr. Giarrusso	18
12	Don Reeb	38
13	Patrick Sorsby	43
14	Janet O'Reilly	47
15	Burt Shou	53
16		

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MR. SPIEGEL: Good evening. My
name is Stuart Spiegel. I'm a Vice
President with O'Brien & Gere
Engineers. O'Brien & Gere Engineers
is the consulting firm that was
selected to help the University of
Albany prepare the Draft Generic
Environmental Impact Statement for
it's five-year Capital Plan. I will
be acting as the moderator for this
evening's session. John Giarrusso
will be presenting on behalf of the

14 University, and he will be presenting
15 a summary of the projects that are
16 included in the Capital Projects Plan.

17 Ground rules. Please, if you
18 haven't signed in, do so at the front
19 desk. We have gone through all of the
20 trouble, all of us here, to prepare
21 for you to come tonight. We want to
22 make sure everyone gets credit for the
23 time. One thing I didn't say, a
24 scoping session like this is informal
25 and optional. The University decided

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1 to have one because it does value the
2 comments of the campus community and
3 surrounding community. So there was
4 no obligation to have this but
5 everybody decided it would be in the
6 best interest of the project to hear
7 what comments people would have. If
8 you would like to speak, please also

9 just get a number had card from
10 Melanie. She will ask to sign it and
11 we will get to the point where people
12 have the opportunity to speak, she
13 will bring them over to me we will
14 have the speakers talk in order. When
15 you do talk please say your name and
16 spell it out if you have an
17 affiliation, a neighborhood
18 association, or just a resident in the
19 area, whatever it may.

20 There will be no responses, no
21 discussion of the questions or
22 comments that you might have. And
23 that is typical for a public meeting
24 of this type. It keeps the record
25 orderly and in reality our job is to

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1 take your comments and to consider
2 them in the context of the project.
3 So that's really what we will be

4 doing.

5 With that, the next thing I want
6 to do is read for the record the
7 notice for today. This is a Scoping
8 Meeting. The announcement for it was
9 published in the Times Union. There
10 are two hard copy repositories.
11 Copies of the Scoping document are
12 available at Service Building A, the
13 Office of Management at Hawley Hall,
14 the Dewey Graduate Library. There is
15 also an electronic depository on the
16 SUNY Albany website.

17 The meeting today is for
18 projects the State University of New
19 York at Albany proposes to execute a
20 listing of Capital Projects over a
21 multi-year period starting in 2010.
22 The listed projects are defined as the
23 University of Albany's Capital Project
24 Plan. The University, as the lead
25 agency, intends to prepare a Draft

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1 Generic Environmental Impact Statement
2 to address potentially adverse
3 environmental impacts associated with
4 the project plan. This notice is
5 pursuant to a New York State
6 Environmental Conservation Law Article
7 8, the State Environmental Quality
8 Review Act or SEQRA and Part 617,
9 Chapter 6 of the New York Codes of
10 Rules and Regulations.

11 The University of Albany will
12 conduct a Scoping Meeting to receive
13 public input on issues to be addressed
14 in the DGEIS on March 10th, 2009 at
15 7:00 p.m. Hard copies of the draft
16 scoping document will be available at
17 Service Building An, as I mentioned
18 earlier and Dewey Graduate Library at
19 the Circulation Desk, and on the
20 website where you can get an
21 electronic copy. Important for all of
22 you, written comment on the scoping
23 document will be received until 5:00
24 p.m. on March 31st, 2009 and should be
25 addressed to Errol Millington,

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1 Director, Office of Campus, Service
2 Building A, University of Albany,
3 Albany, New York 12222. If you have
4 written comments today that you would
5 like to submit, Errol is right here.
6 And I want to mention that, number
7 one, our responsiveness summary will
8 be prepared and should be available in
9 three to four weeks and will be posted
10 on the website. Hard copies will be
11 available in the repositories and your
12 comments can take the form of
13 questions, you know, are you planning
14 to cover this? Will this be
15 addressed? Or it can be in a form of
16 a comment, I would like you to address
17 this issue, I think this is important.
18 I would like to see it addressed as in
19 as much detail or as little detail as
20 you want either tonight or in writing.

21 It's to your discretion. With that, I
22 will move forward and I get to start
23 first. I will try to make this brief.

24 The three points we have up
25 here, we want to keep our involvement

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1 up front here to a minute. So I will
2 talk a little bit about the SEQR
3 process for those of you who reason
4 familiar with it. You couple of you
5 have heard me do this once or twice
6 already. As I said John Giarrusso
7 will be presenting an overview of the
8 projects included in the documents and
9 the Capital Plan, then we will do what
10 we are here for, we will open this up
11 to public comment.

12 First of all in 1977, a new law
13 came into being in the State of New
14 York. It's the Environmental
15 Conservation Law, and it took the form

16 somewhat of a similar act at the
17 national level, NEPA, the National
18 Environmental Policy Act OF 1970.
19 That was the first law of this kind.
20 It was at the Federal level. It
21 mandated that environmental reviews be
22 performed for certain projects so they
23 have to evaluate the environmental
24 impacts of the project on a public
25 stage offering the public an

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1 opportunity to comment, to be
2 involved, to have some say in what
3 they saw as the environmental impacts
4 of the project. Until then projects
5 pretty much went on their own, they
6 were constructed, and there was no
7 real legal and direct opportunity to
8 comment and potentially prevent
9 certain projects from going forward if
10 they had significant environmental

11 impacts.

12 Seven years later in New York,
13 SEQR came into being. SEQR was the
14 first of what is called nowadays the
15 little NEPA's or state NEPA's, a
16 similar type of law on the state level
17 to the federal NEPA that, again, came
18 into being on January 1st, 1970.

19 If there is a law, there have to
20 be regulations. This is where the
21 regulatory program under SEQR can be
22 find Title 6 of the New York Code of
23 Rules and Regulations, part 617. You
24 can see what the basic purpose is, to
25 incorporate consideration of

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1 environmental factors. That didn't
2 exist before the law at the federal
3 level and SEQR at the state level came
4 into being, the consideration of the
5 environmental factors into the

6 existing planning review and the
7 decision making. It's now a
8 requirement and has been in New York
9 State.

10 Here's the role of the public.
11 It's very important. It's always been
12 important. It was the activist public
13 that got this law passed in the first
14 place, as well as the public law, so
15 it hasn't become less important in the
16 last 39 years since the federal law
17 was passed.

18 Participate in scoping. That is
19 an option step in New York State.
20 Review SEQR documents and provide
21 comments. That is why you are here
22 tonight for comments and to
23 participate in SEQR hearings. I will
24 get back to that. Keep that last step
25 in mind.

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1 What is a generic EIS? A lot of
2 people are familiar with the
3 environmental impacts statements they
4 have heard of them may have read them
5 but a generic EIS is different. SEQOR
6 etc. provides for again generic EIS
7 there are four possible situation
8 where generic EIS can be prepared.
9 And it's not doesn't have to fulfill
10 all of these factors it's an either
11 or, anyone of these can be used. For
12 example, we talked about this being a
13 generic EIS for a five year Capital
14 Plan. If you look at number one there
15 are a number of separate actions in a
16 given geographic area which considered
17 by itself may have minor impacts, but
18 if considered together may have, may
19 have significant impacts. And that
20 was to assess what the project capital
21 plan what a number of projects may be.
22 You put up two or three buildings, do
23 a variety of things on campus,
24 individually they may not have
25 significant impacts, but taken

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1 together they collectively could.

2 That is what the evaluation is for.

3 If you think about it, the
4 program can almost, this particular
5 project can be any one of these four
6 categories. But the first one is
7 probably the most significant and the
8 most important. That is why we are
9 using a Generic EIS. What the generic
10 EIS will do, is look at the project.
11 As you know in any kind of long-term
12 plan, there are some projects where we
13 have more detailed information, they
14 have been studied more. Some coming
15 toward the end of the five-year
16 period, there is less information
17 developed now, it's more speculative.
18 So what a Generic EIS is intended to
19 do is to evaluate the different
20 options that may move forward in those
21 later years. So, for example, if we
22 are looking at the site of the

23 building, which we are as part of the
24 Capital Plan. If a building is most
25 likely to be constructed, move forward

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1 towards construction, at the beginning
2 of the plan you would expect there
3 might be more planning information
4 about it right now, and that is
5 correct. But if it's starting to be
6 planned towards the end of the
7 five-year window, that type of
8 information may be less available and
9 may only be a concept.

10 We would like to do this. We
11 are not sure whether we will put it
12 here, here or here. Our job, as part
13 of the evaluation of the generic EIS,
14 is to evaluate what happens in any one
15 of the possible locations. In this
16 case, we are working very strictly on
17 the footprint of the Uptown Campus.

18 None of the projects go off into the
19 community. Doesn't mean they don't
20 impact the community but they don't go
21 into the community. From that
22 perspective it allows us to put a box
23 around the footprint of the campus and
24 say none of the projects will be off
25 the campus. How big is the biggest

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1 one going to be with respect to each
2 environmental criterion, therefore,
3 what is the impact likely to be of
4 that project?

5 Now, let's move to the next
6 project. We have 20 in the overall
7 plan. You can see it can get kind of
8 complex. The idea is to really set
9 the limitations, to set the
10 limitations that the plan can't go
11 outside of. And a question came up
12 last week in a town meeting here. The

13 EIS addresses impacts of the projects
14 on the campus, but also off campus if
15 there are any. It's to look at it too
16 and to evaluate them. So that's what
17 the Generic EIS is intended to do.
18 And it is a little bit more difficult
19 even for those of us who are
20 practitioners and have done over the
21 years. It's more difficult to get
22 your arms around what a Generic EIS is
23 and what it does. I hope you will get
24 the opportunity when you read the
25 document, you will say a reasonable

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1 job was done.

2 This is the basic SEQR process.
3 Right here we talk about the fact that
4 this is a Type I Action, which means
5 it's a large action. So we notify a
6 variety of agencies that might have
7 some permitting or other approval for

8 any one of the projects that are
9 coming up, and the University of
10 Albany suggested that it would assume
11 responsibility for the coordination of
12 activities among the agencies. A
13 coordination -- we can't tell somebody
14 to issue a permit or not issue a
15 permit later on. All we are doing in
16 to proceed is someone has to
17 coordinate what's going on, scheduling
18 these meetings, that sort of thing.
19 The University decided to make a
20 positive declaration saying there may
21 be significant impacts and there needs
22 to be further evaluation. Part of
23 that, you are saying an EIS will be
24 prepared. The University made that
25 commitment from the get-go. Again,

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1 here is where we are now, the Scoping
2 option. Scoping is optional. It is

3 optional. Again, we decided to do
4 that, because we think it's important
5 for the community. That is where we
6 are today.

7 The SEQR process, where are the
8 milestones, where are we going to?
9 You are here today, March 10th, at the
10 Public Scoping Meeting. I told you
11 about the responsiveness summary. The
12 impact statement will be prepared and
13 will be completed in approximately
14 July of this year, in the summer. The
15 University has to find it complete for
16 review. That is actually a legal
17 step. It's not just saying it looks
18 pretty good, let the public look at
19 it. It's a legal step to make sure
20 the EIS fulfills all of the
21 requirements of SEQR, but as I said
22 that may be available in July. We can
23 hold a public hearing fairly shortly
24 after that, but we are not going to.
25 There are a couple of reasons for

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1 that. You and I will be on vacation,
2 the campus will be on vacation. We
3 want the campus community and all of
4 the public to really have the
5 opportunity to review the document
6 which may be lengthy. And for campus
7 community to be here, the campus to be
8 in session, so they could be present
9 and have a say at the public hearing
10 also. We are looking to schedule a
11 public hearing later in September
12 after classes are in session for a
13 couple of weeks. Again, so that
14 people on campus -- this is their
15 campus, the campus is in your
16 community -- we want to make sure
17 everybody has the opportunity to
18 re-review and be able to comment on
19 the document. That is where we are in
20 terms of schedule, that is where we
21 are in terms of process. That is
22 where the process fits into the
23 structure.

24 With that, I will turn it over

25

to John Giarrusso of the University to

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18

1 present a little synopsis of the
2 projects that are on the way, for
3 people who haven't had a chance to
4 review them. Thanks. I will be back
5 up to handle the comments afterwards.

6 MR. GIARRUSSO: Hi, everybody.
7 Thank you for coming tonight. My name
8 is John Giarrusso. I'm the Associate
9 VP for Finance and Business here at
10 University. After that presentation,
11 we will talk about the 20 projects we
12 have listed here in the Scoping
13 document. These are 20 projects which
14 don't encompass everything that we are
15 doing. These are 20 projects that
16 deserve review under the DGEIS. There
17 are a lot of things that will happen
18 to moving elevators and moving areas
19 within the confines of the building,

20 but we will not talk about them right
21 now. These projects, many of them,
22 have been on the drawing board for a
23 very long time. Some of them are
24 funded, they have a budget. Others
25 have had master plans in prior years.

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1 Again, we scooped up everything that
2 we thought has a chance of being
3 funded or enacted within the next five
4 or seven years, and we are putting
5 them in this document. There are
6 various levels. I will go through all
7 of the projects and fill in on what
8 you hopefully have read in the
9 document online. I should note the
10 projects are not in any order. We
11 have gone through so many drafts of
12 this before we did this, before the
13 draft went public. They are not in
14 order by priority or sequence.

15 With regard to the dates, we
16 were working on this,
17 December-January, we tried to put
18 together, again, the most aggressive
19 sort of dates we could put together.
20 If stimulus money came up, this, that
21 or the legislature, if it all landed
22 here in our lap, how quickly could we
23 get this out the door? And that's why
24 a lot of dates say January 11th --
25 January 2011 because they assume some

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1 designs can starts quickly. In some
2 cases, we will see what happen. The
3 budget is still being negotiated
4 downtown.

5 The first project is the Student
6 Housing Project. It is contemplated
7 as a 500 bed apartment-style
8 residence. On the outside of
9 Perimeter Road, which is out here in

10 this wooded area. Here is Western
11 Avenue. It's about an eleven and a
12 half acre parcel. The beds would be
13 apartment style. They wouldn't be
14 connected to any campus utility except
15 for electric and water. We considered
16 a couple of other sites when we did
17 the concept planning. The other sites
18 were down here. Hopefully you will
19 see where the parking lot is down
20 here. And also south of that site is
21 a proposed parking lot. We had
22 considered many sites. Again, we were
23 putting them on pavement. If we did
24 that, there would be movement of
25 existing parking, and it would

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1 increase the cost of the job. More
2 importantly, there are site utilities
3 that went from the plant straight
4 through that would cause great

5 disruption to the campus and great
6 expense. Up here we are talking about
7 other parking solution, so this is the
8 site that was selected and had the
9 highest priority.

10 The second project, the Campus
11 Center Addition, this project was
12 funded and was passed last April with
13 the State budget. We have two sites
14 identified here. We are currently in
15 the design concept stage and
16 programming stage of this project.
17 It's a 75,000 square foot addition to
18 the Campus Center. We are not clear
19 whether it will go on this side of the
20 Campus Center, span the Campus Center
21 or be a stand-alone building. For
22 purposes of this analysis, we are
23 considering it all in play in this
24 area (indicating).

25 The third project, this project

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1 is funded a Business School Building.
2 It was funded in the active budget
3 last April as well. It's right here
4 at the top of the circle and here
5 again in this area. Here is the top
6 of the circle. It's currently where
7 Visitor Parking is. The building is
8 conceived as a 90,000 square foot
9 classroom and business school
10 building. It's on the site of the
11 Visitors Parking. We will talk about
12 other projects that will address what
13 happens to that parking.

14 This is somewhat of a
15 complicated site. We are getting into
16 the design later this month. We are
17 looking at a tunnel connector to this
18 building as well as utility
19 connections. The building is about 23
20 classrooms, so it will be a high use
21 building.

22 We are looking at, because this
23 is a major bus stop here, the corner
24 of the building is factored into what
25 mass transit plans we have to enhance

1 the ridership to provide an area for
2 students taking the bus, provide more
3 active use of the plaza area.

4 Project number 4. This project
5 is funded. It's the relocation of our
6 Data Center up on campus. The main
7 Data Center was built in the late
8 sixties at sometime where computing
9 was a totally different animal. At
10 this point with the growth of rack
11 servers and the type of power and
12 cooling they need, the current setting
13 doesn't have the real estate to fit
14 anymore -- probably in two years
15 clearly doesn't have the cooling
16 capacity-- we will run into
17 electrical issues as well. We are
18 studying where we can relocate the
19 Data Center. In May this is what we
20 will study whether it should be put
21 here where the Health Center currently

22 is, actually Building 25 where the
23 Health Center used to be, or here by
24 the Service Building C or should it be
25 a free-standing building, perhaps down

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1 here in this place by the Grounds
2 Building, or perhaps lower than the
3 housing project on that plot of land
4 north of MSC and UAB. That is
5 something we will be studying in the
6 months to come.

7 The next project is the
8 Multi-Use Athletic Facility. The best
9 location is right here against the
10 SEFCU arena, below the bubble. It
11 will be a facility that would house
12 about initially 10,000 seats for
13 football and soccer as well as
14 students, instructional space for
15 athletes, and other amenities. It
16 will provide a connection to the SEFCU

17 arena and enhance the SEFCU Center as
18 well. That is about it. It will be
19 expandable to 24,000 seats at a later
20 phase down the way.

21 Purple Path Continuation. We
22 are all familiar with this, the third
23 of the mile was completed about a year
24 and a half ago. This would take the
25 Purple Path all away around the

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1 campus, which would make it about a 5K
2 or three mile loop. Right now just
3 like a lot of other things, we are in
4 a study mode. We have a landscaping
5 study, which is halfway through to
6 identify the campus plantings which
7 will be done and also in the process
8 of mapping out the entire Perimeter
9 Road and all of the road networks to
10 figure out the best way to construct
11 this Purple Path, because right down

12 here is a lot of width and space, but
13 as you get to some of the tighter
14 areas, you have utilities, fire
15 hydrants, light poles, and other
16 things in the way which will force us
17 to design greater solutions for that
18 area. We are working on that right
19 now. We are hoping to start that
20 sooner than later, maybe around the
21 summer of 2011.

22 Project number 7 is the
23 renovations of Building 25. I don't
24 know if you are aware of this or not
25 but our Student Health Center and

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1 Counseling Center was relocated last
2 summer and moved over here to 400
3 Patroon Creek across from Washington
4 Avenue. We have five quads and we
5 will find an alternate area for them.
6 Once that happens, the building

7 becomes vacant for repurposing. In
8 the next couple of years we will use
9 the building as surge space for other
10 areas of campus.

11 Project number 8 and project
12 number 9 are virtually the same, but
13 they are separated because one is on
14 the north and one is on the south.
15 They may be phased differently. It's
16 about five acres of land in each of
17 the quads between the residential
18 quads and the Podium. As you know,
19 those are areas pinched with traffic,
20 poor pedestrian ways, and trees and
21 plantings that are dead or diseased.
22 All these improvements are needed to
23 restore the campus. That is what we
24 are in the process of doing, a
25 preservation study for getting around

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1 to work on ways to establish standards

2 on campus to preserve the architecture
3 and the buildings, and also we want to
4 preserve and restore the landscaping.
5 What was key in the landscaping was to
6 create the pedestrian walkways between
7 the Presidential and Academic areas.
8 In so doing, we are working on plans
9 to creatively limit parking as much as
10 we can to handicapped areas, and we
11 are going to improve pedestrian
12 recreational opportunities. So
13 parking for this project, as well as
14 the restoring the buildings, plays
15 into a larger parking process that we
16 are doing.

17 There you go. This is a site
18 that had been earmarked for the
19 potential of increased surface
20 parking. It's adjacent to the state
21 park. None of the boxes here on this
22 map are actually to scale. But if you
23 take the existing lot and push it
24 further west toward the state campus,
25 you could fit anywhere from 250 to 300

1 cars. That would be part of the
2 puzzle piece where you put visitor
3 parking or other parking which will be
4 located near it, and we will study
5 that as well. Later on, we will talk
6 about the contemplated parking
7 structures which we may or may not get
8 into today. I will talk about that in
9 a second.

10 Number 11 is the Surge Building.
11 That is the way we can unlock the key
12 to the Podium so we can get in and
13 renovate the Podium spaces. When the
14 business building gets constructed,
15 this area right here will get
16 renovated. That is part of the
17 facilities plan. There are some
18 occupants currently in this building
19 that we will have to find an alternate
20 home for, but the building,
21 nevertheless, will be vacated and we
22 will renovate that area.

23 This end of the campus is where

24 the science buildings are. You don't
25 have space to put the occupants or

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1 labs or instructional spaces in any
2 other building so you can get
3 meaningful renovations. Imagine
4 1960's architecture and engineering.
5 You have a lot of money in power and
6 all sorts of utility costs in the
7 building. This building here would
8 provide up to 150,000 square feet of
9 surge space where we can sequentially
10 move the science area and renovate.
11 That way we will get renovations done
12 on this end and that end. It's been
13 40 years. We have to get going on
14 this thing.

15 Number 12 is the Parking
16 Structure. Now, we have been talking
17 about this for a long time. Parking
18 structures are very expensive to

19 construct in an area of very sparse
20 resources. But in talking about them,
21 these are the sites that will be
22 considered. We have site 12 off of
23 the entry of I-90. You have elevation
24 changes here, you have a sort of a
25 sunken pit here by Washington Avenue.

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1 That would make it a good spot. It
2 would be an unobtrusive lot, not in
3 the face of the campus. Also we are
4 considering here to get a
5 multi-stadium built. That is a good
6 place for parking. And what has been
7 kicking around for awhile is Podium
8 West, perhaps putting in elevation
9 changes, grade changes. We could have
10 parking at the lower levels with
11 academic spaces within the higher
12 levels. This is contemplated. We
13 don't know how many spots we are

14 talking about. This is something we
15 want to consider.

16 Number 13 is an addition to the
17 Grounds building. I mentioned that
18 the Data Center is one of the sites
19 contemplated. The Data Center is
20 right here in Service Building C. But
21 you have occupants in Service
22 Buildings C, and we also have shops,
23 mechanical shops, small engine repair
24 shops and the like, other facilities
25 here built in the sixties, and they

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1 don't comply with the current work
2 spaces. It's part of the puzzle we
3 are trying to unravel. Part of the
4 shops are here so they can service
5 small engines. They would vacate this
6 space to Service Building C, and this
7 building would be repurposed.

8 Number 14 is a combined Heat and

9 Power Plant. This has been discussed
10 in the past. What it is taking a
11 reliable source of energy, natural gas
12 or some other sort of gas, and burn it
13 so you can generate not only power but
14 heat. That is important because our
15 facility is heated year around for
16 chilling function as well as heating
17 function. So it might not be
18 economically sound to construct such a
19 building here but has been taken into
20 account the factors of what it costs
21 for the fuel we are using and the
22 operating costs in the past.
23 Nevertheless, should one be
24 constructed, it would be next to the
25 Power Plant because that is where we

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1 need the heat to be generated from.
2 Number 15, Improvements to the
3 Entryways. I mentioned the

4 landscaping master plan for the campus
5 landscaping. It's not in the DGEIS,
6 but it's something that really had to
7 be worked on for quite sometime. We
8 have planters all over the Podium that
9 are in stages of being dead or ugly.
10 We are addressing all of these things.
11 We mapped out the trees and determined
12 their species and relative health. We
13 are looking at including the entrances
14 of the campus to make the entranceways
15 more fitting with the scale of the
16 University. That involves a couple of
17 things, widening the entrance,
18 improving the walkways to the outer
19 roads, putting in turning lanes and
20 bike lanes, and improving the kinds of
21 species and plantings we have. We are
22 working on Fuller Road over the next
23 two years, so we probably won't be
24 addressing this area until that work
25 is done.

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1 Number 16 is a Bus Rapid Transit
2 (BRT). We have been one of the
3 partners here planning in the region
4 of how to improve mass transit. It's
5 important to the university, as you
6 know, for people to commute downtown
7 and get back and forth. So working
8 with the MTA, we were contemplating
9 being part of the Bus Rapid Transit
10 system. If you are not familiar with
11 it, it's creating a dedicated bus line
12 with very few stops, so it's almost
13 like an express rapid transit system
14 if you will. It includes providing
15 better bus stops and better technology
16 so students on their Blackberry
17 phones, I-Pods, whatever, can know
18 when a bus is coming by using
19 technology. That way we can improve
20 ridership and the frequency of the
21 ridership. This is something we are
22 working on with the Capital District
23 Transportation groups. We have one of
24 the Bus Rapid Transits on Central
25 Avenue. That would be the first one

1 out the door.

2 Number 17, that is the Podium
3 West Building. This was in the 1998
4 University Master Plan. This was sort
5 of unlocking the key on how to
6 renovate the rest of the Podium. One
7 of the concepts was to build and
8 develop right off on this end of the
9 campus. Governor Nelson Rockefeller
10 selected Edward Durell Stone to design
11 a campus master plan in 1974. He
12 actually designed another sort of
13 carbon copy of that here. So that has
14 been in play as a concept and you will
15 still consider it as a major extension
16 to the Academic Podium to help the
17 university meet surge space needs.

18 Number 18, the
19 Bicycle-Pedestrian Path. In addition
20 to the Bus Rapid Transit is a system

21 where we are working with the Regional
22 Transportation Planners, the City of
23 Albany, and others, to improve our
24 bicycle and pedestrian routes. You
25 will see leaving the campus there was

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1 something about the bicycle path
2 planned. We are looking to get a
3 straight shot from downtown to uptown.
4 It may or may not involve the Harriman
5 Campus. In addition, we have a very
6 vibrant and skilled Geography and
7 Planning Department, and one of their
8 projects last year had discussed
9 creating a golden grid. And what's a
10 golden grid? It links the Purple Path
11 and the pedestrian plan grid from the
12 inner campus out to the ring road so
13 as to minimize the number of
14 intersections so people don't have to
15 conflict with cars and it could be

16 handicapped accessible, a walking
17 path. So we are considering that. We
18 are working on that.

19 The Athletic Master Plan. We
20 talked about the multi-use stadium.
21 The next thing we are working with is
22 the athletic program. We are
23 addressing the condition of the
24 running surface of the track on the
25 field. The surface is deteriorating.

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1 The rubberized track doesn't meet the
2 standards. We have a really good
3 track program that can use an improved
4 track. We also have heavy use of the
5 track for recreational purposes by the
6 community, as well as the faculty, but
7 the facility is in dire need of
8 repair. That will be the next one.

9 Number 20, this one is going to
10 give us a lot of headaches to try to

11 implement. It's renewing the Main
12 Fountain Water Tower. This tower, you
13 see here is a functioning water tower
14 for us. It has over 300,000 gallons
15 of water storage, and it provides
16 enough pressure so when you get to the
17 top, there is pressurized water to the
18 top of the tower. But it's in need of
19 repair. I liken it to a giant
20 thermos. The thermos inside has to be
21 reconditioned, and the outside of the
22 tower has to be painted, as well.
23 Since we are working on that, we might
24 as well replace the inside of the
25 system, the guts of the system since

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1 we are there making noise and
2 cordoning off the area of the main
3 fountain leaks. It's a bear to be
4 repaired. It has systems fabricated
5 by our shops in many cases by hand.

6 While we are there, the single pane of
7 glass that surrounds the fountain, it
8 leaks. You will see calcium
9 calcification on it. The whole area
10 needs to be improved. Here is the big
11 pay off. It needs to be beautified so
12 it's not an eyesore, frankly. Eight
13 months out of the year, we are looking
14 for beautification and upgrades. That
15 is on the books, we will start to
16 design and plan on that quickly. It's
17 not important only for the functioning
18 of the campus, but the heritage of the
19 campus as well. These are the 20
20 projects. I have only given you a
21 brief description, but you can come up
22 here and look at it. Please, if you
23 don't have comments or are too shy to
24 talk today, please e-mail us and we
25 will address everything in this Draft

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1 Generic Environmental Impact
2 Statement. Thank you very much.

3 MR. SPIEGEL: Thanks, John.
4 Hopefully that was useful to a lot of
5 us to give you perspective on the
6 project. Again, I have a few cards
7 here for people who would like to
8 speak. If you to have an interest in
9 speaking, Melanie, would you please
10 bring the cards up from people who
11 filled out cards and let's do it in
12 order. While these first three people
13 are speaking, Melanie will offer
14 anyone else a card who would like to
15 speak. I see a couple of people the
16 audience. The first one is Don Reeb.

17 MR. REEB: Thank you. My name
18 is Don Reeb, spelled R-E-E-B, beer
19 spelled backwards.

20 There are a number of very small
21 concerns I will start with first that
22 did not get into the discussion. You
23 have a number of employees on campus,
24 and they often wait for the bus on
25 Western Avenue on the corner of

1 Washington Avenue by the state police
2 building. There is no bus shelter
3 there. It would be gracious of the
4 University to make sure they had a bus
5 shelter. There is also one down
6 across from the Dunkin' Donuts in
7 which you have a large number of your
8 employees waiting for buses down
9 there. That would be nice if there
10 was a shelter there as well.

11 But to a larger concern, I'm
12 very pleased as President of the
13 Association that you are holding this.
14 And I want to applaud you for that.
15 The concern obviously from the
16 Association's point of view is what
17 impact it will have outside of it.
18 One of the important impacts is the
19 number of cars. I don't know how many
20 cars you have coming onto campus in a
21 day, but it has to be in the range of
22 10,000, something of that nature.

23 Anyway it's a large number. And they
24 do not all travel through McKownville,
25 but probably a large chunk of them do.

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1 And the Rapid Transit System that
2 you're showing us, most important, the
3 campus -- and I don't know how you
4 deal with trying to get students,
5 faculty and others to use Rapid
6 Transit off of campus, bus service or
7 others, but it would be a great
8 benefit if you would focus on the
9 impact of the number of people coming
10 onto your campus on a given day. It's
11 probably more than 10,000. But,
12 anyway, it's a large number and that
13 would be important.

14 You don't address the other side
15 of Fuller Road, but, of course, we are
16 concerned about the other side of
17 Fuller Road. It's a little confusing

18 as to why Nano Tech and Freedom Quads
19 are not involved in this discussion,
20 but they obviously aren't. Part of
21 that focus, of course, for us recently
22 has been that stormwater that I'm sure
23 you are sick and tired of hearing
24 about by this time, but that is
25 besides the point. I'm talking about

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1 the stormwater that is coming out of
2 the Freedom Quads running onto Fuller
3 Road and runs down and is aiding and
4 abetting our stormwater problems in
5 McKownville. I don't know how you
6 draw your perimeters of EIS. Maybe
7 there is some understanding of why you
8 don't include Nano, but it's confusing
9 why you don't include Freedom Quads
10 since it's part of your campus -- at
11 least I think it was. While I was
12 teaching here, I thought it was part

13 of the campus. Anyway, I think that
14 probably should be thought about as
15 well. The people in McKownville
16 obviously are concerned whether or not
17 you will expand your footprint of what
18 had been the boundaries of the campus.
19 Except for getting closer to Tudor
20 Road, it does not appear there is
21 going to be much in the way of
22 expansion outside of the traditional
23 boundaries. In all honesty the side
24 by Tudor Road was, years ago, in 1964,
25 '65, was considered for a phys ed

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1 facility. I'm not sure that is an
2 expansion, but it's where a building
3 had not been before in any case.

4 If there is any interest in
5 getting Judge Harris's property over
6 by Waverly, that would be an enormous
7 concern to the Association. I know

8 when the chapel was put in, the main
9 chapel is technically not part of the
10 campus, but you would have a hard time
11 making anybody here believe that. But
12 that was somewhat moving into the
13 McKnownville community, which we
14 agreed it would not happen, but in any
15 case, it did happen. In addition to
16 that, the campus is going to, I think
17 from the community's point of view,
18 look better. That is a good thing and
19 it will be more attractive. That is a
20 great thing. The parking garages are
21 probably going to be a major concern
22 as to what the design and exactly what
23 they, how they impact the neighbors.
24 It's not all that close, but one is
25 close to the heating plant building,

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1 and the other is on the other side,
2 but that would be a major concern.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. SPIEGEL: Thank you. The
5 second person is Patrick Sorsby.

6 MR. SORSBY: I am Patrick
7 Sorsby, S-O-R-S-B-Y.

8 Thank you very much. I'm a MBA
9 student at the University of Albany.
10 I live off of Russer Road. I don't
11 know if I'm in the McKownville area,
12 but I'm pretty close. I run on the
13 campus every day and encounter the
14 many drivers coming in and out,
15 dodging cars left and right. I'm very
16 familiar with the campus area in
17 addition to going to school here as an
18 undergraduate and having gone to
19 Albany Law and getting my M.B.A., so
20 I'm a professional student.

21 I'm here today because part of
22 one of our MBA programs, one of our
23 classes, had us develop a business
24 that dealt with one of the major
25 issues in the 21st century, one of the

1 major issues was losing developmental
2 space as we go forward in America.
3 Our team developed a business concept,
4 business plan, to develop lab
5 facilities for universities and other
6 institutions in an underground setting
7 so that institutions like universities
8 can have a very well defined lab
9 setting underground. And we actually
10 looked at a University of Oregon model
11 wherein they put their Nano facility
12 completely underground, because they
13 ran out of space quickly. Much of the
14 reason they ran out of space, they
15 didn't plan adequately ahead for the
16 development in the coming years. When
17 they wanted to kind of ride the Nano
18 storm, if you will, they ran out of
19 space. One of the ways they dealt
20 with the loss of space, they built
21 under ground. The community loved it,
22 because you had a state of the art
23 facility that brought jobs, but you
24 didn't know it was there. It became a

25 great PR for the university, because

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1 it led the way in a green revolution
2 and, again, the community loved it
3 because there was no runoff because
4 the facilities were completely
5 underground. The lab scientists loved
6 it. There was less impact from
7 vibrations from trucks in the area.
8 It was a completely good lab setting
9 under ground.

10 I came here today to bring the
11 concept up to the University of
12 Albany. As they proceed, I can e-mail
13 the information on it. The Business
14 Plan 1, the Business Plan Competition
15 here at the University of Albany, it
16 might be interesting to use something
17 from your own students to go forward.
18 Particularly as I look at the plan
19 here, as you move some of the lab

20 facilities, other facilities for
21 development, it might be good that you
22 can merge the underground parking
23 facilities, tagging along with it some
24 of the lab facilities having the
25 perfect lab setting combined with the

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1 parking facility. I also bring that
2 up to the extent that there is a
3 development of the nano facility in
4 the future, because I know that is
5 going to be kind of a growing concern.
6 Really look at the University of
7 Oregon's plan as they proceeded. They
8 had a state of the art facility. Some
9 very, very good development came out
10 of the facility. We can use that
11 model here going forward. We only
12 have so much space. Although it looks
13 like we won't develop a lot in the
14 next 5 or 10 years, in 20 or 30 years

15 if we can use this state of the art
16 green model going forward,
17 particularly since there is money in
18 that for such development, maybe we
19 should kind of look into that. I want
20 to make the suggestion as part of the
21 record. I will e-mail all of the
22 information to the e-mail address you
23 put on the board. Thank you.

24 MR. SPIEGEL: Thank you.

25 Third person to speak is Janet

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1 Riley.

2 MS. REILLY: My name is spelled
3 R-E-I-L-L-Y. I'm in a Norwood
4 neighbor. I live on -- this is the
5 street. Well, I'm not quite sure,
6 it's kind of over here (indicating).
7 I can see the bright lights from the
8 new lacrosse stadium at night, and the
9 lights in the tennis courts when they

10 are on.

11 First of all, I would like to
12 thank you for this opportunity. I
13 think it's great of the University to
14 do this and give us a chance and give
15 us the information. I enjoy being a
16 neighbor of the University. I run the
17 ring road, such as it is, just about
18 every day. I also enjoy the woods and
19 the birds, and it pains me to think
20 about losing them, but I understand a
21 university is about students and you
22 have to address their needs.

23 Just a couple of things that are
24 my biggest concern I would like to see
25 addressed by the plan. The biggest

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1 one for me, selfishly, is water,
2 either runoff water or groundwater.
3 As I say, I live here and we have
4 problems with water in McKownville in

5 general. I'm not pointing a finger at
6 the University, but when places are
7 paved over and there aren't any green
8 spaces for water to get into, there is
9 more water out there. I noticed in my
10 basement I literally have a stream
11 that runs through the basement. It
12 has gotten much, much worse since this
13 building was constructed. Again, it
14 could be coincidence or lots of
15 things, but I'm happy you are doing
16 this, because you are doing lots of
17 things, and it will have lots of
18 impact.

19 I'm continuing to think in terms
20 of the parking structure and multiple
21 structures going in here and
22 structures going in down there
23 (indicating). What normally is water
24 that sinks into the grass will be in
25 my basement. I'm very concerned about

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1 that. I'm also concerned about the
2 woods and the green space in general.
3 For that reason and the esthetics of
4 it in terms of the campus, I want to
5 throw in that I was always curious why
6 for a building like the dormitory, you
7 didn't consider building along
8 Washington Avenue where there are
9 hotels and other structures and no
10 residences. I wanted to throw that
11 out there.

12 One last thing, bicycles. As a
13 cyclist, the point is drive versus
14 need to be educated about driving
15 around pedestrians and bicycles. If
16 you are thinking about a bike plan, I
17 didn't see anything like a bicycle
18 garage. What I see is exciting. You
19 see lots of bikes on campus, you see
20 bikes are chained up every place.
21 Kids are going in that direction,
22 which is great, but I think that could
23 be fostered more with, like, a bike
24 garage. There are various ways. I'm
25 going to Portland, Oregon soon. I can

1 report back. There are cities that
2 are bike friendly and environments
3 that are bike friendly. It seems like
4 a good assignment for some students to
5 come up with that. Thanks, and good
6 to see the Norwood group.

7 MR. SPIEGEL: Thanks for your
8 comments and you will like Portland.

9 MS. O'REILLY: I look forward to
10 it. But I don't want to move.

11 MR. SPIEGEL: That was not
12 implied at all.

13 Number 4, Burt Schou.

14 MR. SCHOU: Burt Schou,
15 S-C-H-O-U. I'm also a Norwood
16 resident.

17 First, I will echo the water
18 issue. Since it's been built, I never
19 had water in my basement until the
20 last few years. The groundwater as I
21 recall -- I think there is a

22 groundwater station somewhere on the
23 campus that the water flows south-
24 southeast. I would encourage that
25 maybe a groundwater monitor -- because

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1 our neighborhood has had so many
2 groundwater problems -- be installed
3 above our neighborhood, because the
4 groundwater level is pretty high near
5 the landfill area. The groundwater is
6 at about two feet below the surface.
7 With the combination of all the
8 developments is why we are getting so
9 much water. Any surface improvements
10 will add more groundwater. As part of
11 that, I want to negate what the one
12 gentleman said about putting things
13 underground. That will disturb the
14 groundwater flow tremendously. We
15 have a neighborhood that is already
16 impacted very seriously. We have

17 neighbors' basements that get pumped
18 out, and putting buildings under the
19 ground would disturb the flow. All
20 the other comments I will make --
21 except for one, lighting. When they
22 built the new field over here, they
23 used to leave the lights on for many
24 hours. No one there. It's a high
25 waste of energy. I don't know why

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1 that was on for many, many hours.
2 The rest of my comments deal
3 with transportation, particularly for
4 pedestrian sidewalks. We have none on
5 Washington Avenue, none on Fuller
6 Road. Even Nano didn't put any in. I
7 don't know why, because maybe they are
8 under the exemption, but there should
9 be a sidewalk on Fuller Road. On
10 Fuller Road and Washington Avenue we
11 have a wonderful recreational facility

12 which is pretty much walking distance
13 from the campus.

14 The Bus Rapid Transit, as far as
15 the bus integration stops being built
16 at number 3, the last time they did
17 the campus expansions, they weren't
18 going to change anything. It was too
19 late. If they do bus stop
20 improvements, I recommended the bus
21 stop improvements be integrated such
22 that with so many students here, so
23 many students taking a bus, that they
24 build a heated facility so where the
25 bus pulls up to it, there is an

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1 overhang. You want to encourage
2 people to take mass transit, now you
3 are out in the cold, you have tiny
4 little bus shelters. I believe the
5 expense for the bus stops is minute
6 compared to what they pay for parking.

7 If you really invest in a facility
8 that is heated, a facility that is
9 comfortable and convenient, and they
10 can walk to and wait comfortably, more
11 people would choose to take the bus.
12 I used to work as a transportation
13 planner. So I do have a background in
14 that.

15 Also on parking costs. Parking
16 costs on the campus are \$20 per car
17 per year. How can you encourage one
18 to take a bus at \$20 a year? I think
19 that has to be considered. \$20? You
20 know that is much, much too cheap.

21 So I don't know how we can get
22 the sidewalks in. I would like to
23 really definitely see those. And I
24 do -- again, lastly the groundwater
25 issue, you do need a study. There is

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1 a simple way to do a study. I

2 recommend some sort of groundwater
3 level testing wells, so you can keep
4 monitoring the well. That way we can
5 know in our neighborhood, the impacts
6 you have, and future impacts, we would
7 know how it affects us. Every few
8 inches that come up, the few inches
9 are in our basement. Thank you.

10 MR. SPIEGEL: Thank you. I
11 don't have any other cards. Is there
12 anybody else who wanted to speak who
13 we haven't had a chance to hear? With
14 that then, I will close the record and
15 consider this public meeting closed.

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1 C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

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4 I, JOAN A. DE CARO, Shorthand Reporter and
5 Notary Public in and for the State of New
6 York, do hereby CERTIFY that I recorded
7 stenographically the foregoing testimony taken
8 at the time and place herein stated and the
9 preceding testimony is a true and accurate
10 transcript hereof to the best of my knowledge
11 and belief.

12

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JOAN A. DE CARO

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18 Dated: _____

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