

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY HOSTS PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION ON DOWNTOWN CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Albany, New York –The University at Albany (UAlbany) will host a public scoping session on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Milne Hall, Room 200 located on the downtown campus. Residents, students, faculty, property owners and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Limited parking is provided in the Thurlow Parking Lot located on Western Ave across from the campus. Upon arrival, please register if you would like to speak.

The University at Albany is considering renovations and expansion of the Downtown Campus to meet space needs as described in its 2012 UAlbany Facilities Master Plan. These space needs are expected to be met with a combination of renovation and new construction within the existing Downtown Campus property and, depending on available funding, would be implemented over the next five to ten years. To evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project plans, UAlbany is undertaking a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). SEQRA incorporates the consideration of environmental factors into planning and development. The intent of SEQRA is to balance the social, economic and environmental factors of a proposed project (6 NYCRR Part 617). The process for developing and completing the GEIS is a public process with opportunities for public input at various points. The public scoping session is the first opportunity for public input in the process.

An early step in the GEIS process is to ‘scope’ topics and potential impacts to be evaluated in the GEIS document. This public scoping session is an opportunity for the public to identify the potential impacts and topics to be evaluated. Topics evaluated may include traffic, noise, parking, historic resources, aesthetics, and more. The topics to be evaluated will be included in a scoping document that will guide the GEIS.

For more information or to view the draft scoping document, go to the UAlbany website at <http://www.albany.edu/facilities/dgeis/downtown.html>. Hard copies of the draft scoping document are also available at Service Building A, Office of Facilities Management Reception Area, located on UAlbany’s Uptown Campus and at Hawley Hall, Dewey Graduate Library Circulation Desk, located at 135 Western Avenue on UAlbany’s Downtown Campus.

Written comments on the Scoping Document will be received until 5 p.m. on February 28, 2014, and should be addressed to: Errol Millington, Director, Office of Campus Planning, Service Building A, University at Albany, Albany, NY 12222.

Contact: Errol Millington, Director, Office of Campus Planning
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The GEIS process is guided by the UAlbany Office of Campus Planning with technical assistance from MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. based in Clifton Park.