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# University at Albany Downtown Campus Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) Public Scoping Meeting

January 29, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Proposed Projects
- 3. What is a GEIS
- 4. Overview of Topic Areas
- 5. Next Steps
- 6. Questions / Comments

## **General Information**

## What is a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)?

The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (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). A GEIS is a broad approach to evaluating the environmental impacts of the following:

- 1. A number of separate actions in a given geographic area that if considered singly may have minor impacts , but when considered together may have significant impacts;
- 2. A sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or individual;
- 3. An entire program or plan having wide application.

## What is the Proposed Project?

The Proposed Project involves a series of improvements, renovations and/or expansion of existing buildings and parking areas in the University at Albany Downtown Campus. The Downtown Campus is located at 135 Western Avenue in the City of Albany, Albany County, New York. The Proposed Project involves a series of potential individual projects that could occur over a period of time.

#### What is a Public Scoping Session?

A public scoping session is an opportunity for the public to identify the potential impacts and topics areas to be evaluated in the GEIS. Typical topic areas evaluated may include traffic, community impacts, environmental impacts, parking, historic resources, and more.



#### How can you participate?

The process for developing and completing the GEIS is a public process with opportunities for public input at various points. Following are a number of ways you can participate:

• Comments on the draft scoping document will be collected for the next 30 days (until March 1<sup>st</sup>). Please submit written comments to:

Errol Millington, Director, Office of Campus Planning University at Albany, Service Building A 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222 <u>emillington@albany.edu</u>

- A draft GEIS is anticipated to be completed late summer/early fall 2014. Hard copies and digital copies of the draft GEIS will be made available to the public for review.
- A public hearing will take place once the Draft GEIS has been completed to obtain additional public input.
- Digital materials and updated for the draft GEIS will be available on the University at Albany website <u>www.albany.edu/facilities/dgeis/downtown</u>