

t-GEIS

transportation-Focused Generic Environmental Impact Statement

How is the t-GEIS different from the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP)?

Both are broad planning initiatives, but the timelines, scope, process and deliverables are very different:

The t-GEIS looks at the transportation-related impacts of Cornell's population growth on the surrounding community over the next 10 years. The CMP will guide the long-term physical development of the Ithaca campus in concert with the university's academic goals over the next 20 to 60 years.

The t-GEIS process will result in Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategies (TIMS) to address the impacts mentioned above. The CMP will provide a flexible physical planning and decision-making tool for the university to plan for the development of the university's research, teaching, residential and recreational priorities and programs and serve as a campus-wide frame of reference for the university's current Capital Plan.

The focus of the t-GEIS is transportation systems *beyond* the campus to the greater Ithaca area. The CMP will comprehensively look at land use, landscape, transportation and service infrastructure systems *within* the Cornell campus for academic planning for the future.

Both processes will engage the community beyond the campus. However, the t-GEIS is a joint effort with Cornell University and the Town of Ithaca Planning Board and is guided by the SEQR process. It includes other governmental agencies as involved and interested agencies.

The CMP is being undertaken by the Cornell University Board of Trustees and will have its own independent process. The master planning process will invite broad input and participation from the community and local leaders, in particular during the initial fact-finding stages of the process.

The transportation study is in the format of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement under the SEQR process. The SEQR-mandated findings statement will be adopted by the Town of Ithaca Planning Board, while the CMP is subject only to approval by Cornell University's Board of Trustees.