

Transportation-focused Generic Environmental Impact Statement
For
Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategies

t-GEIS

UPDATE
November 19, 2008

t-GEIS

The Town of Ithaca Planning Board held a public hearing on the Draft transportation-focused Generic Environmental Impact Statement (t-GEIS) on September 16. Prior to the public hearing, the t-GEIS team held an information meeting for Involved and Interested agencies on September 9, and a few days before the public hearing, Cornell distributed an eight-page description of the project, including a request for comments, in the local and campus newspapers. During the public hearing, comments were provided by four members of the public and members of the Planning Board and Town Planning staff.

Following the public hearing, the t-GEIS team has been working with Town of Ithaca staff to prepare responses to the comments which will be contained in the transportation-focused Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (t-FGEIS). The t-FGEIS consists of: (1) the t-DGEIS; (2) all comments made on the t-DGEIS, including minutes from the public hearing; (3) the Lead Agency's and applicant's responses to substantive comments, including clarifying attachments; and (4) a description of an additional potential mitigation. The Town Planning Board considered the responses to substantive comments at its November 18 meeting.

The t-GEIS team also has provided presentations about the t-GEIS to the City of Ithaca Planning Board, the University Neighborhoods Council, and the Cornell University Assembly during the fall.

Next Steps on the t-GEIS:

- The Town of Ithaca Planning Board may accept the t-FGEIS at its December 2 meeting.
- The Town of Ithaca Planning Board (the Lead Agency) and Involved and Interested Agencies may make a Findings Statement on the t-FGEIS. Any agency that uses the t-FGEIS as part of the environmental review of a decision will have to issue a Findings Statement on the t-FGEIS.

TIMS

Cornell University has provided a draft of its ten-year Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategies (TIMS) to the Town of Ithaca Planning Board and Involved and Interested agencies and is accepting comments on the document. TIMS, which was developed using data and analysis from the Draft t-GEIS, is Cornell's strategic transportation work plan for reducing transportation impacts over the next 10 years. While the TIMS is a Cornell document and is not subject to external approvals, the university has welcomed comments on the document. The Town of Ithaca Planning Board and Involved and Interested agencies may "receive" or "accept" the TIMS, much the way that a report is received or accepted. Cornell would welcome this.