

**ADOPTED RESOLUTION**

**PB RESOLUTION NO. 2005-102  
Lead Agency Designation and Positive Declaration of Environmental  
Significance  
Cornell University transportation-focused  
Generic Environmental Impact Statement (t-GEIS)  
And Ten-year Transportation Impact Mitigation  
Strategy (TIMS)  
Town of Ithaca Planning Board, November 1, 2005**

**MOTION** made by Rod Howe, seconded by Tracy Mitrano

**WHEREAS:**

1. Cornell University has submitted a report outlining a proposal for a “transportation-focused Generic Environmental Impact Statement (t-GEIS) and Ten-year Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategies (TIMS)”, dated August 26, 2005, being undertaken by Cornell University in cooperation with the Town of Ithaca. The t-GEIS will address transportation impacts on the community surrounding the campus related to an increasing population traveling to Cornell. The TIMS will evolve in response to the information obtained from the t-GEIS, and may include recommendations for transportation demand management, multi-modal transportation strategies, access and circulation modifications, and zoning changes. Cornell University, Applicant; Kathryn Wolf, RLA, Principal-in-Charge (Trowbridge & Wolf, LLP); Martin, Alexiou, Bryson (Transportation Consultants), and
2. The proposed transportation-focused GEIS would be a generic environmental impact statement that will identify, examine and evaluate Cornell’s transportation-related impacts and potential mitigations for several hypothetical population growth scenarios over the next decade. The GEIS is a tool available under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, commonly referred to as SEQR. Unlike an Environmental Impact Statement, a GEIS is flexible enough to explore hypothetical or alternative scenarios, and
3. The Town of Ithaca is the logical municipality to serve as lead agency in the t-GEIS initiative. Its boundaries encircle the City of Ithaca and abut most of the county's other municipalities. On an average workday, 80 percent of Cornell employees travel through the Town of Ithaca on their daily commute. The town has a key role in the county's overall transportation system, and is in the process of completing its own transportation plan, and
4. The Town of Ithaca Planning Department, on behalf of the Planning Board, distributed a Lead Agency concurrence letter to potential involved and interested agencies on September 12, 2005, and received no objections to the Town of Ithaca Planning Board serving as Lead Agency on this matter, and
5. The Planning Board has reviewed the report referenced above, which includes a Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Part 1, prepared by Cornell University, a description of the proposed action, and a cover letter (August 26, 2005) indicating that the applicant proposes to prepare a transportation-focused Generic EIS and is requesting a positive declaration of environmental significance for the Planning Board’s consideration, and also has reviewed Part 2 of the Full EAF, prepared by the Planning staff,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Town of Ithaca Planning Board hereby establishes itself as lead agency to coordinate the environmental review of the proposed transportation-focused GEIS and Ten-year Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategy, as described above, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Town of Ithaca Planning Board hereby makes a positive determination of environmental significance in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act for the above referenced action as proposed, and, confirms that a transportation-focused Generic Environmental Impact Statement (t-GEIS) will be prepared, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Town of Ithaca Planning Board hereby requests that the Town Planning Department duly file and publish a Notice of Positive Declaration pursuant to the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 617.12, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That Cornell University and the Town of Ithaca Planning Board have agreed that a public scoping process will be initiated to determine the scope and content of the t-GEIS, and that Cornell University will prepare a draft written scope of issues to be addressed in the t-GEIS, and that the Planning Board will schedule a public hearing on said scoping document to be held before this Board at the earliest practicable date upon receipt of said draft scoping document.

The vote on the motion resulted as follows:

AYES: Wilcox, Hoffmann, Conneman, Mitrano, Thayer, Howe, Talty.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None.

The vote on the motion was carried.

**STATE OF NEW YORK)  
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS) SS:  
TOWN OF ITHACA:**

I, Tee-Ann Hunter, Town Clerk of the Town of Ithaca, New York, do hereby certify that the attached resolution is an exact copy of the same adopted by the Planning Board of the Town of Ithaca at a regular meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2005.

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Town Clerk  
Town of Ithaca