

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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GREENE IDA COMMITS TO SUPPLEMENTAL GEIS ON DESTINATION RETAIL PROJECT

Plan Provides for Enhanced Public Participation and Involvement

The Greene County Industrial Development Agency has authorized a supplemental GEIS on its proposed Destination Retail Project adjacent to Exit 21B of the New York State Thruway in the Town of New Baltimore. The new schedule provides for substantial additional public participation as well as closer coordination with Town Boards, Planning Boards and the Greene Habitat Advisory Committee. The GCIDA is seeking an open and effective dialogue related to all details of the project.

The supplemental process provides for the development of three new alternative concept plans with corresponding traffic review and infrastructure improvement strategies. In addition, important issues such as wetland and habitat impacts will be looked at closely, with new assessments conducted last fall and this winter on wetland function and habitat use integrated into the final site plan. All other related topics associated with general site plan and density build out issues will be updated as well for each new alternative.

“The process is working and the IDA Board of Directors felt strongly that a supplemental review of the project’s density was needed in response to the community’s concern over size and overall impact,” explained Paul Slutzky, Greene IDA Board of Directors Chairman. “In addition, our study of potential secondary growth impacts is complete and will be included in the overall GEIS review.”

For the past several months, the GCIDA has been working closely with Elan Planning and Design, the Town of New Baltimore’s planning consultant, to take a detailed look at commercial growth in the 9W corridor, specifically the limitations in future developments due to environmental constraints. Elan’s activities have also focused on studies of secondary growth factors including case studies of large retail projects in other areas.

The primary goal of the project to stimulate the local economy by driving enhanced assessment, the creation of new jobs and to provide significant community benefit remains unchanged. The Supplemental GEIS will review and develop real alternative layouts and density mixtures to achieve this public driven agenda.

Highlights of the new public participation schedule includes a Public Informational Session on the downsized options on February 12, two community workshops hosted by Mediation Matters to provide an open forum for the public to discuss all aspects of the project on February 27 and March 1, followed by a more formal Supplemental GEIS SEQR hearing anticipated to be held on April 7.

“The IDA remains committed to unprecedented public participation as an essential element of this process. The workshop format to enhance the exchange of ideas and opinions with project consultants and the general public is an innovative model to significantly improve the interaction of all interested parties,” emphasized Sandy Mathes, Greene IDA Executive Director.

The Supplemental GEIS and the completion of the GEIS process are expected to be complete by the end of May 2008. Attached are the details for all public participation opportunities.

Attachment: Public Participation Schedule and Location Details