



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

for the

**New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory
Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health**

**W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus
Albany, New York**

Prepared on behalf of:

**New York State Department of Health
Wadsworth Center, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237**

Prepared for Lead Agency:

**Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
515 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207-2964**

Prepared by:

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December 2024

Date FEIS Accepted as Complete: December 9, 2024

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Prepared by:

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In Association with:

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction	1-1
Introduction	1-1
Project Background and Procedural History	1-1
Structure of the FEIS	1-2
Chapter 2. Response to Comments	2-1
Introduction	2-1
List of Organizations and Individuals Who Commented on the DEIS	2-1
Comments and Responses.....	2-2

Appendix A: Written Comments Received on the DEIS

List of Figures

following:

1-1 Project Site Context 1-1
1-2 Project Location 1-1
1-3 Proposed Site Plan 1-1

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) for the New York State (“NYS”) Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory Project (the “Proposed Project”). This FEIS, which hereby incorporates the previously issued Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) by reference, has been prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, as required under the *State Environmental Quality Review Act* (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations (6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* Part 617). This FEIS also provides the Lead Agency’s responses to the substantive public comments (both written and oral) made on the DEIS during the public hearing and formal comment period. The Proposed Project remains the same as described in the DEIS.

Project Background and Procedural History

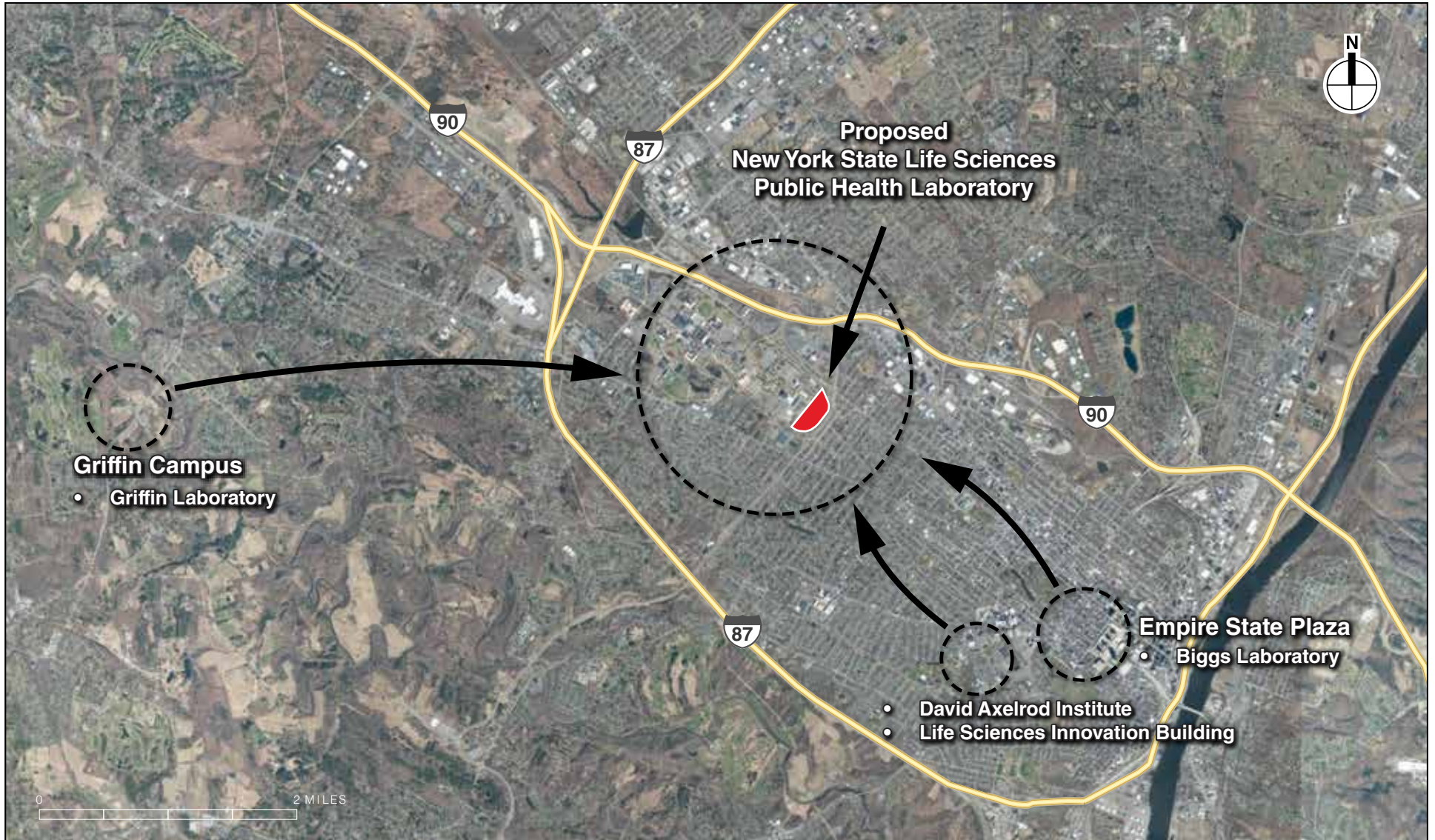
The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”) has received a request from the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) to construct the NYS Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory. For the purposes of review under SEQRA, the Proposed Action would consist of NYSDOH’s approval of construction pursuant to the *Public Health Law* (“PHL”) of NYSDOH’s plan to centralize and consolidate existing operations of the Wadsworth Center that are currently located in five separate facilities located in the Capital Region. DASNY’s role is to deliver the project on behalf of its customer agency, NYSDOH, the programmatic decision makers and owners of the project. As the Owner’s Representative, DASNY would hold all contracts, including with the design-build team and other consultants.

The Proposed Action would facilitate the construction of a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory building and accessory surface parking lot on a 27-acre site on the W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus (“Harriman Campus”) in western Albany (the “Project Site”). **Figure 1-1** shows the location of the Project Site in relation to the locations of existing Wadsworth Center facilities in the Capital Region and **Figure 1-2** shows an aerial photograph of the Project Site and Harriman Campus. **Figure 1-3** provides the site plan for the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would foster innovation and collaboration at the Wadsworth Center facility, and between the Wadsworth Center and outside partners, contributing to broader life sciences initiatives in the Capital Region. The Proposed Project is described in more detail in DEIS Chapter 1, “Project Description.”

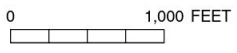
DASNY is the designated Lead Agency for the SEQRA process. DASNY issued a Lead Agency Request and Full Environmental Assessment Form – Part 1 on February 1, 2024. There being no objections, DASNY declared itself Lead Agency and adopted a Positive Declaration, signaling its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), on March 6, 2024.

The DEIS was prepared in accordance with the environmental analysis described in the Final Scoping Document issued by DASNY acting as Lead Agency on May 22, 2024. A copy of the Final Scoping Document and all relevant SEQRA documents can be found in DEIS Appendix A and is available on DASNY’s website at <https://www.dasny.org/>. DASNY issued a Notice of Completion for the DEIS on October 15, 2024.

Issuance of the Notice of Completion for the DEIS commenced the public review period, which extended from October 15, 2024 through November 15, 2024. A duly noticed public hearing on the DEIS was held on October 30, 2024. Oral and written comments on the DEIS were received



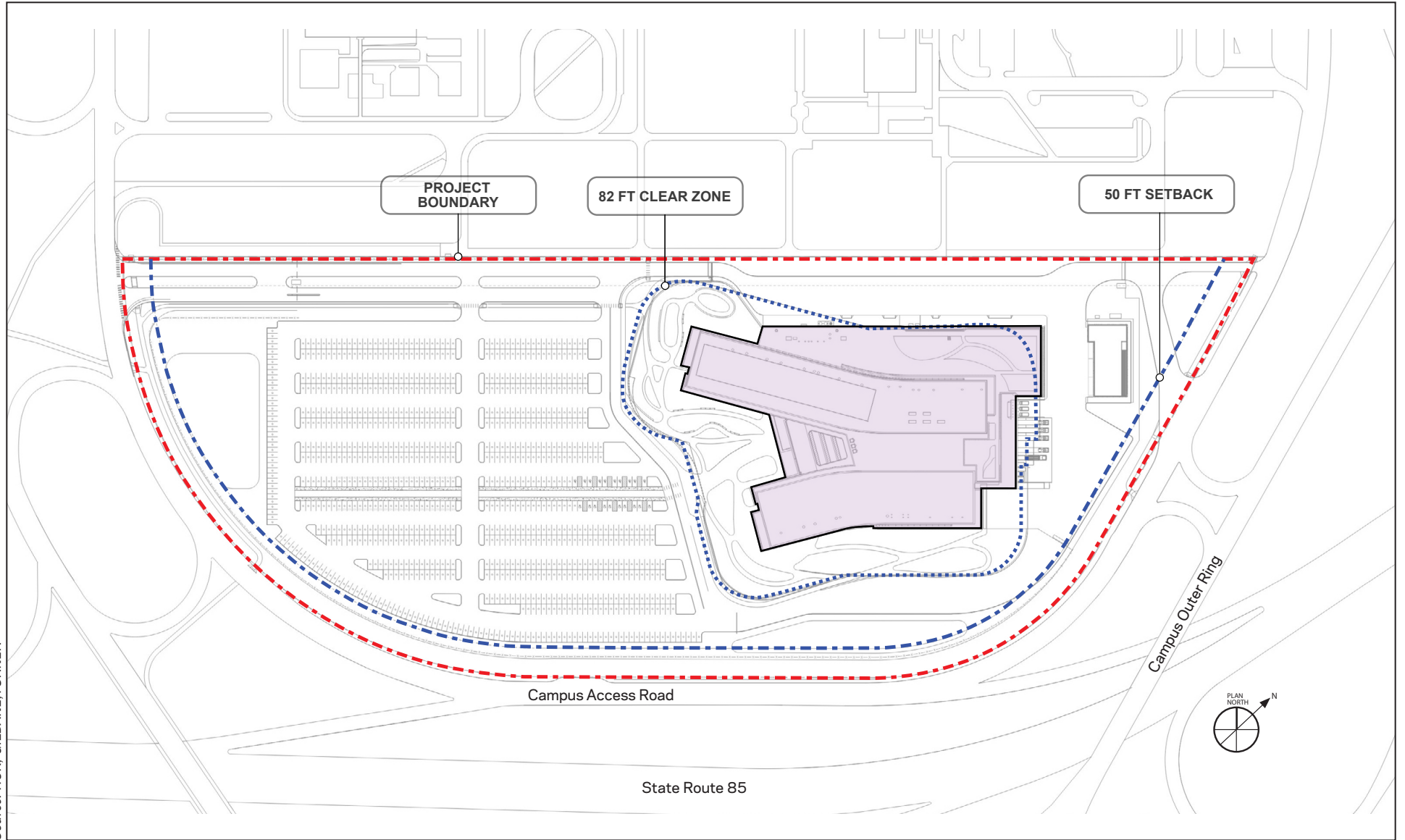
-  *Project Site*
-  *Wadsworth Center Laboratory Facilities*



- Project Site
- W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus



Project Location
Figure 1-2



 Project Site

NOTE: FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

during the public hearing, and written comments were accepted during the public review period. All substantive comments received during the public review process become part of the record and are summarized and responded to in this FEIS.

DASNY, as lead agency, and each involved agency must adopt written findings based on the FEIS and reflecting its conclusions about the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, potential alternatives, and potential mitigation measures. The Statement of Findings may not be adopted until 10 days after a Notice of Completion has been issued for the FEIS.

Structure of the FEIS

The organization of this FEIS is as follows:

- Chapter 1, "Introduction"
- Chapter 2, "Response to Comments" - This chapter provides responses to substantive comments on the DEIS received during the public comment period.
- Appendix A, "Written Comments Received on the DEIS"

Summary of the DEIS

This FEIS incorporates the DEIS by reference. The DEIS is available on DASNY's website at <https://www.dasny.org/>. The DEIS provides an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project in the following technical areas:

- Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy,
- Stormwater Management,
- Visual and Community Character,
- Socioeconomic Conditions,
- Environmental Justice,
- Community Facilities,
- Infrastructure,
- Traffic and Transportation,
- Air Quality and Climate Change,
- Noise,
- Hazardous Materials,
- Construction,
- Cumulative Impacts,
- Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources, and
- Growth Inducing Impacts.

The DEIS concludes the Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts in any of the technical areas analyzed, and no mitigation measures beyond the implementation of best management practices and those required by applicable laws and regulations are proposed. The DEIS describes and evaluates the No Action Alternative to the Proposed Project,

as required by the SEQRA regulations, and describes the site selection process for the Proposed Project.

CHAPTER 2. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Introduction

This chapter of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) summarizes and responds to substantive comments received during the public comment period for the New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”), which was issued by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”) on October 15, 2024.

The section titled “List of Organizations and Individuals Who Commented on the DEIS” lists the organizations and individuals providing comments relevant to the DEIS either verbally at the public hearing held on October 30, 2024 or in writing during the public comment period from October 15, 2024 through November 15, 2024. All written comments are included in digital format as **Appendix A**, “Written Comments Received on the DEIS.”

The section titled “Comments and Responses” contains a summary of relevant comments on the DEIS and a response to each. These summaries convey the substance of the comments made, but do not necessarily quote the comments verbatim. Where more than one commenter expressed similar views, those comments have been grouped, summarized, and addressed together.

List of Organizations and Individuals Who Commented on the DEIS

Elected Officials

1. Sergio Adams, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
2. Owusu Anane, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
3. Alfredo Balarin, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
4. Hyde Clark, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
5. Corey Ellis, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
6. Patricia Fahy, New York State Assemblymember, letter dated September 23, 2024 and oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
7. Ginnie Farrell, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024 and oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
8. Jack Flynn, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
9. Sonia Frederick, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
10. Tom Hoey, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
11. Derek Johnson, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
12. Meghan Keegan, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
13. Kelly Kimbrough, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
14. Joyce Love, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
15. John McDonald, New York State Assemblymember, oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
16. Jahmel Robinson, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
17. Gabriella Romero, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024
18. Kathy Sheehan, Albany Mayor, letter dated September 23, 2024
19. Deborah Zamer, Albany Common Council, letter dated September 23, 2024

Organizations

20. Jackie Gonzalez, Capital Streets and Walkable Albany, comment card submitted October 30, 2024, and oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024

General Public

21. Aimee Allaud, email dated November 13, 2024
22. Tim Cooney, email dated October 30, 2024
23. Jim Digida, oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
24. Mark Frering, email dated October 24, 2024
25. Jackie Gonzalez, email dated October 25, 2024
26. Marc Johnson, comment card submitted October 30, 2024
27. Benjamin Mackrell, comment card submitted October 30, 2024 and oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
28. Sachin Mitra, email dated October 30, 2024, comment card submitted October 30, 2024, and oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
29. Dustin Moore, oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
30. Andrew Obringer, email dated November 15, 2024
31. James Rath, oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
32. Mary Rosch, oral testimony delivered October 30, 2024
33. Morgan Sammons, email dated October 29, 2024

Comments and Responses

Comment 1: Several commenters requested that the Proposed Project facilitate a more walkable, accessible, and integrated design for the Harriman Campus. The commenters expressed that the Harriman Campus, including the Project Site, should be more integrated with the surrounding community, and suggested changes such as the extension of the street grid into the campus or the elimination of the Proposed Project's fence. The commenters also suggested more mixed-use development on the Harriman Campus and Project Site, including commercial, residential, and retail uses.

Response: The Proposed Project is limited to the construction of a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory building and accessory surface parking lot to foster innovation and collaboration at the Wadsworth Center facility, and between the Wadsworth Center and outside partners, contributing to broader life sciences initiatives in the Capital Region. Changes to the Proposed Project such as an extension of the street grid or inclusion of mixed-use development on the Project Site would require changes to other portions of the Harriman Campus such as the Campus Access Road ring roads. Such changes to the Harriman Campus beyond the Project Site are outside the scope and budget of the Proposed Project. Further, the New York State Department of Health only controls the 27-acre Project Site; changes to the remaining 303 acres of the Harriman Campus are outside of its control. Finally, funding for the Proposed Project in the New York State budget may not be spent on unrelated projects in the Harriman

Campus. Since the Proposed Project would only affect the Project Site, it would not preclude any future changes or alterations to the Harriman Campus as envisioned by the commenters. Please see the response to Comment 6 regarding the Proposed Project's fence. Please see the response to Comment 2 regarding Proposed Project features to facilitate multi-modal access to the Project Site.

Timing is also of the essence for the Proposed Project. Due to the aging infrastructure and outdated design of the Wadsworth Center's current laboratories, the Proposed Project cannot be delayed while a potential redesign of the Harriman Campus is studied, designed, reviewed, funded, and implemented.

Comment 2: Numerous commenters expressed concerns about the amount of parking provided in the Proposed Project and requested that the number of spaces be reduced. Some commenters expressed concerns that the Proposed Project's design and amount of parking incentivizes driving and precludes multi-modal access, and others suggested improvements to provide better transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the Proposed Project.

Response: The Proposed Project's parking supply is intended to accommodate the anticipated parking demand of staff and visitors to the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would also include features to facilitate multi-modal access to the Project Site. In particular, the Proposed Project would include new Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")-compliant sidewalks on the perimeter of the Project Site to facilitate safe pedestrian access, and new Capital District Transportation Authority bus stops (Purple Line) are expected to be located on the Campus Access Road near the future entrance to the Project Site. Additional improvements to multi-modal transportation facilities beyond the Project Site are outside the scope and budget of the Proposed Project.

Comment 3: One commenter noted that driving affects air quality and noise levels.

Response: The effects of Project-generated vehicle trips on air quality and noise are assessed in DEIS Chapter 10, "Air Quality and Climate Change," and DEIS Chapter 11, "Noise," respectively. With respect to air quality, a mobile source screening analysis demonstrates that the Proposed Project would not cause significant adverse air quality impacts due to emissions of carbon monoxide or particulate matter from mobile sources as a result of changes in vehicular traffic with the Proposed Project. With respect to noise, the DEIS analysis concludes that the predicted noise level increases associated with the Proposed Project's vehicle trips would be imperceptible and would not result in significant adverse noise impacts.

Comment 4: One commenter requested that the Proposed Project include more than the required number of electric vehicle parking spaces.

Response: Comment noted. The Proposed Project would provide electric vehicle charging stations at 47 parking spaces, or 5 percent of the 930 total parking spaces, with capacity to add another 15 electric vehicle charging stations in the future if needed.

Comment 5: Two commenters provided feedback regarding measures to reduce GHG emissions from the Proposed Project. The commenters suggested measures to reduce the Proposed Project's GHG emissions, including providing electric vehicle charging stations or reducing auto commuting by improving pedestrian, bicycling, and transit infrastructure. One commenter noted that the DEIS did not discuss how the Proposed Project would comply with the requirements of the New York State *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act* ("CLCPA").

Response: The Proposed Project would include numerous measures to address sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As discussed in DEIS Chapter 1, "Project Description," the Proposed Project is being designed consistent with Executive Order 22 ("EO-22"). The focus is on an integrated design approach that would optimize building performance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce water usage, minimize waste, and maximize human health and the experience within the facility. The Proposed Project is also being designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ("LEED") v4/4.1 Silver certification. The Proposed Project would include a closed-loop geothermal heat pump system to meet a portion of the heating and cooling demand from the facility, and electric-powered air source heat pumps would be used as the primary source of heating and cooling for the building, which would reduce the on-site use of fossil fuels. Finally, the Proposed Project would include new ADA-compliant sidewalks on the perimeter of the Project Site and new Capital District Transportation Authority bus stops that are expected to be located on the Campus Access Road near the future entrance to the Project Site.

An assessment of the Proposed Project's consistency with the CLCPA is provided in DEIS Chapter 10, "Air Quality and Climate Change." As noted in the assessment, the Proposed Project is anticipated to improve overall energy efficiency, reduce overall fuel usage, and result in a net GHG emissions reduction when compared to the existing facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be consistent with the GHG emission reduction goals of the CLCPA.

Comment 6: Several commenters expressed opposition to the Proposed Project's perimeter fence, which they stated was not necessary and would create a barrier between the Proposed Project and the surrounding community.

Response: The proposed fence on the 'front' westward facing two-thirds of the Project Site would not be a tall barrier fence. Rather, it would be a pedestrian-height, black aluminum picket fence that would define the property line while permitting views into the Project Site. As described in DEIS Chapter 1, "Project Description," the proposed perimeter fencing, along with new ADA-compliant sidewalks, would promote pedestrian safety by directing pedestrians to existing crosswalks on the

Campus Access Road and in adjacent Brevator Street neighborhoods, facilitating safe pedestrian passage to and from the Harriman Campus around the Project Site. The fencing around the 'back' eastward facing one-third of the Project Site would also serve to protect critical infrastructure in the Proposed Project.

Comment 7: One commenter stated that the Proposed Project was not going through the same review process a private project and asked that DASNY consider the impact on the local community as part of this different process.

Response: As the Project Site is owned by the State of New York, and the Proposed Project would be constructed and operated by a state agency, the Proposed Project would not be subject to local review procedures, such as the City of Albany Development Plan Review. Nonetheless, the Proposed Project is subject to environmental review under the *State Environmental Quality Review Act* ("SEQRA"). DASNY as lead agency has fully complied with the requirements of SEQRA. This FEIS, which incorporates the DEIS by reference, has been prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, including potential impacts on the surrounding community.

APPENDIX A
WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DEIS

Elected Officials



Jeffrey,

Next Wednesday, October 30th, 2024, at 6:30pm, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) will host a public hearing on the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Public Health Labs project. I encourage you to join me in making your voice heard on this important project. You can find suggested comments and a letter I penned this month.

While we are excited to see work commence and get shovels in the ground, I remain concerned that we are not fully leveraging the transformative nature and funding for this project to create a more interconnected Harriman Campus, especially given plans for a property perimeter fence.

Learn more about how to submit your public comment below, and I hope you can join us next Wednesday.

Wadsworth Labs Public Hearing

See below for how to submit public comment either in-person at the public hearing, or electronically. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at (518) 455-4178 or fahyp@nyassembly.gov.

**MAKE
YOUR
VOICE
HEARD**

**Wadsworth Labs
Project Public Hearing**

When: Wednesday, October 30th, 6:30pm
Where: The College of St. Rose, Touhey Forum, Thelma

P. Lally School of Education, 432 Western Avenue (1009 Madison Avenue), Albany, NY

What: Draft Environmental Impact Review (EIS) and Wadsworth Labs public hearing.

Can't make it? Provide public comment by emailing LSPHLComments@DASNY.org and watch the livestream on www.dasny.org.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
PATRICIA A. FAHY
100th Assembly District
Albany, Guilderland,
New Scotland



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Wadsworth Labs Project Public Hearing

Suggested comments:

- Maximize interconnectedness with surrounding neighborhood and City using multi-modal infrastructure.
- No property perimeter fence while maximizing security.
- Reduce space dedicated to on-site parking.
- Encourage development of new commercial, residential, retail, and mixed-use space.
- Facilitate a more walkable, accessible, and integrated Harriman Campus as part of this \$1.7 billion project



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
PATRICIA A. FAHY
100th Assembly District
Albany, Guilderland,
New Scotland

Full Letter on Concerns Related to Wadsworth Labs Project. Below, find my full letter related to concerns surrounding the perimeter fence and more as it relates to the Wadsworth Labs consolidation and upgrade. Use this to help formulate your comments to DASNY.

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BETSY A. FISY
Assemblymember 10th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DIR II
Committee on Higher Education
COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
DIVISIONS
Economic Development
Transportation
MEMBER
Legislative Women's Caucus
Task Force on Women's Issues

September 23, 2024

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS Capitol, Second Floor
State St. and, Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to express our continued concerns regarding the current plan for the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Center Lab project, which, as proposed in the [May 22, 2024, Final Scoping Document](#), commits half of the 27-acre plot to parking and surrounds the entirety of the property with a perimeter fence. We sincerely appreciate the previous meetings and ongoing commitment to rebuilding this nationally renowned public health lab, which we hope to be a catalyst for growth and economic opportunity not just for the Hamman Campus, but the City of Albany and Capital Region more broadly. Unfortunately, the external design proposal seems to undermine the original intent of integrating the Lab into the Hamman State Office Campus.

The Wadsworth Lab is currently designated a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory, as are all state-run public health laboratories in the United States, this designation requires a primary and secondary barrier to protect workers, the surrounding community, and the physical facility itself from security threats.¹ Primary barriers are the devices that contain the infectious agents; the secondary barrier is the physical enclosure of the laboratory. BSL-3 laboratories do not require perimeter fences, only BSL-4 laboratories do.²

That said, we recognize and fully support a fence or barrier around the lab facility itself. At issue is a perimeter fence around the entire 27-acre property and the need to devote almost half of these valuable acres to over roughly 800 parking spaces on a campus of valuable state property already containing excessive parking. When preliminary discussions began for this 27-acre site roughly ten years ago, it included designating at least a few of these acres for private commercial or retail space. A fence around the entire 27 acres will preclude multi-modal access to the site and double down on the worst of a car-centric 1960s design for decades to come.

While we agree that security is key given the nature of Wadsworth's vital research, the Dormitory Authority of New York's (DASNY) final scoping document includes plans for a 'pedestrian-height, black aluminum picket fence that would demarcate the property line', rather

¹https://efi.ed.ac.uk/TechnicalResources/Documents/News/2016/201606%20PDF%20Files/2016%20NTU%20BSL-3%20Planning%20Part%201%20The%20Barrier%20%20February%202014%20Version%20to%20Date_2016%20.pdf

²<https://www.anso.com/assets/anso-03-1092.pdf>

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than serve any required security purpose as set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which oversees and regulates Biosafety Levels in the United States.

Not only are parking lot perimeter fences not required for BSL-3 laboratories, multiple BSL-3 laboratories operate across the country and here in New York State without perimeter fences; including Albany Medical College, New York Medical College, the New York Blood Center, the University at Buffalo's BSL-3 laboratory, and more.³

We agree that security is of the utmost priority; however, it needs to be balanced with concerns of our broader community, which is to facilitate a more walkable, accessible, and integrated Hamman Campus as part of this \$1.7 billion project. As proposed, the fence would isolate the Wadsworth Labs from the adjoining Hamman Campus and the surrounding neighborhood near Brevator Street, perpetuating the flawed 1960s design that disconnected the campus from the City of Albany more than 50 years ago. We maintain that these security goals are not in conflict and are mutually achievable.

Additionally, devoting roughly half of the acreage for 800 plus parking spaces impedes the opportunity to truly transform the Hamman Office Campus into a multi-modal, walkable, and integrated community. Designating a few acres of land for commercial, retail space, or residential



integrated property. Integrating a form of housing with commercial uses, such as office or laboratory housing would help eliminate the need for parking spaces and further attract the workforce of tomorrow to live and work in the City of Albany.

As elected officials representing the City of Albany and community impacted by this project, we are eager to see work begin. Changing the external design will help maximize the economic multiplier effect throughout our local economy, including the creation of new good-paying jobs for Capital Region families. Please note, while we urge you to reconsider this decision, these concerns are external to the lab design itself and should not preclude initiating work.



We look forward to meeting with you or your designee on this important matter. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
109th District

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan

Hon. Corey Ellis
Albany Common Council President

Hon. Ginnie Farrell
Albany Common Council Majority Leader, 13th Ward

³ <https://www.esatodny.com/news/interactions/biolabs/>

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Hon. Kelly Kimbrough
Albany Common Council President Pro Tempore
4th Ward

Hon. Gabriella Romero
Albany Common Councilmember, 5th Ward

Hon. Jahmel Robinson
Albany Common Councilmember, 5th Ward

Hon. Owusu Anane
Albany Common Councilmember, 10th Ward

Hon. Alfredo Balarin
Albany Common Councilmember, 11th Ward

Hon. Meghan Keegan
Albany Common Councilmember, 9th Ward

Hon. Sergio Adams
Albany Common Councilmember, 7th Ward

Albany Councilmember Jack Flynn
Albany Common Councilmember, 8th Ward

Hon. Sonia Frederick
Albany Common Councilmember, 1st Ward

Hon. Tom Hoey
Albany Common Councilmember, 15th Ward

Hon. Deborah Zamer
Albany Common Councilmember, 14th Ward

Hon. Derek Johnson
Albany Common Councilmember, 2nd Ward



Hon. Joyce Love
Albany Common Councilmember 3rd Ward

Hon. Hyde Clark
Albany Common Councilmember 12th Ward

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If you know someone who might be interested in signing up for our weekly e-newsletter,

If you know someone who might be interested in signing up for our weekly e-newsletter, forward them this e-mail or [send them this link!](#)

Sincerely,

Pat

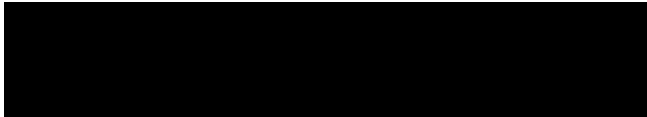
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PATRICIA A. FAHY
Assemblymember 109th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Higher Education

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Environmental Conservation
Transportation

MEMBER
Legislative Women's Caucus
Task Force on Women's Issues

September 23, 2024

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS Capitol, Second Floor
State St. and, Washington Ave
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¹https://orf.od.nih.gov/TechnicalResources/Documents/News%20to%20Use%20PDF%20Files/2014%20NTU/BSL-3%20Planning%20Part%201%20The%20Barrier%2011%20February%202014%20News%20to%20Use_508%20.pdf

²<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-08-1092.pdf>

than serve any required security purpose [as set forth](#) by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which oversees and regulates Biosafety Levels in the United States.

Not only are parking lot perimeter fences not required for BSL-3 laboratories, multiple BSL-3 laboratories operate across the country and here in New York State without perimeter fences; including Albany Medical College, New York Medical College, the New York Blood Center, the University at Buffalo's BSL-3 laboratory, and more.³

We agree that security is of the utmost priority; however, it needs to be balanced with concerns of our broader community, which is to facilitate a more walkable, accessible, and integrated Harriman Campus as part of this \$1.7 billion project. As proposed, the fence would isolate the Wadsworth Labs from the adjoining Harriman Campus and the surrounding neighborhood near Brevator Street, perpetuating the flawed 1960s design that disconnected the campus from the City of Albany more than 50 years ago. We maintain that these security goals are not in conflict and are mutually achievable.

Additionally, devoting roughly half of the acreage for 800 plus parking spaces impedes the opportunity to truly transform the Harriman Office Campus into a multi-modal, walkable, and integrated property. Repurposing a few acres of land for commercial, retail space or residential housing would help eliminate the need for parking spaces and further attract the workforce of tomorrow to live and work in the City of Albany.

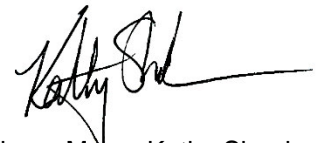
As elected officials representing the City of Albany and community impacted by this project, we are eager to see work begin. Changing the external design will help maximize the economic multiplier effect throughout our local economy, including the creation of new good-paying jobs for Capital Region families. Please note, while we urge you to reconsider this decision, these concerns are external to the lab design itself and should not preclude initiating work.

We look forward to meeting with you or your designee on this important matter. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
109th District



Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan



Hon. Corey Ellis
Albany Common Council President



Hon. Ginnie Farrell
Albany Common Council Majority Leader, 13th Ward

³ <https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/biolabs/>

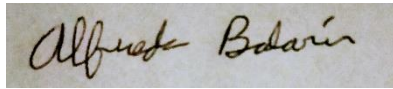




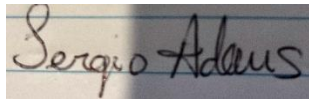
Hon. Kelly Kimbrough
Albany Common Council President Pro Tempore
4th Ward



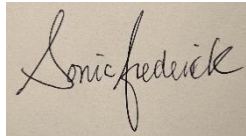
Hon. Jahmel Robinson
Albany Common Councilmember, 5th Ward



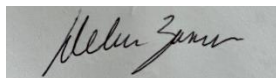
Hon. Alfredo Balarin
Albany Common Councilmember, 11th Ward



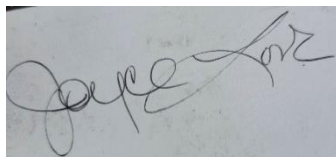
Hon. Sergio Adams
Albany Common Councilmember, 7th Ward



Hon. Sonia Frederick
Albany Common Councilmember, 1st Ward



Hon. Deborah Zamer
Albany Common Councilmember, 14th Ward



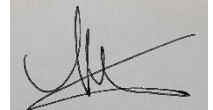
Hon. Joyce Love
Albany Common Councilmember 3rd Ward



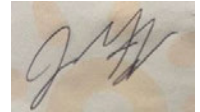
Hon. Gabriella Romero
Albany Common Councilmember, 6th Ward



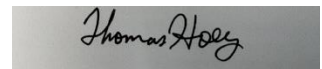
Hon. Owusu Anane
Albany Common Councilmember, 10th Ward



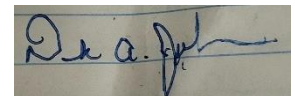
Hon. Meghan Keegan
Albany Common Councilmember, 9th Ward



Albany Councilmember Jack Flynn
Albany Common Councilmember, 8th Ward



Hon. Tom Hoey
Albany Common Councilmember, 15th Ward



Hon. Derek Johnson
Albany Common Councilmember, 2nd Ward



Hon. Hyde Clark
Albany Common Councilmember 12th Ward



cc: Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly
Kathryn Garcia, Director of State Operations, New York State Executive Chamber
Jeanette Moy, Commissioner, New York State Office of General Services
Dr. James McDonald, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
Hon. Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive
Mike Lyons, Director, Capital Region Building Trades
David Anderson, President, NY CREATES



Organizations

Public Hearing Comment Card

Name: Jackie Gonzales
Affiliation: Walkable Albany Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Address: [REDACTED]

COMMENT: Rather than try to keep GHG emissions from commuters the same (and the accompanying air quality levels the same), we should try to improve emissions + air quality effects by reducing commuting. The way to reduce commuting is to incentivize people to live locally by having good pedestrian, bicycling, + transit infrastructure integrated with the surrounding community.



DASNY Department of Health

New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory

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For more information about the project and background documents, please visit

<https://www.dasny.org/Wadsworth-Lab>

General Public



Outlook

[Draft] (No subject)

Draft saved Fri 10/25/2024 7:56 AM

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 6:44 PM

Subject: Wadsworth Lab Project - public comment

You don't often get email from [learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

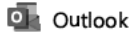
Please incorporate the following into the proposed \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Public Health Labs project:

1. Facilitate a more walkable, accessible and integrated Harriman Campus leaving space for new commercial, residential, retail and mixed-use living.
2. Maximize interconnectedness with the surrounding neighborhood.
3. Reduce space dedicated to on-site parking.
4. Eliminate the perimeter fencing, which is not required.

Thank you.

Mark Frering

Voorheesville, New York



[Draft] (No subject)

Draft saved Fri 10/25/2024 9:02 AM



Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 10:19 AM



Subject: Wadsworth Labs comments on DEIS



EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

To whom it may concern,

It is critical for the health, safety, and environmental well-being of Albany residents that the construction at the Harriman Campus integrate the campus into the City of Albany.

As it currently stands, the Harriman Campus is a black hole in the city. There is virtually no pedestrian or bicycle connectivity with surrounding neighborhoods, despite the fact that many employees of this campus could (and some do) live in these surrounding neighborhoods.

If we want to actually lower emissions and improve air quality (from the carcinogens coming off of car tires), we need these investments to contribute to fewer car commuters to the campus.

Current designs incentivize even those living within a mile or two radius to still drive in. This directly affects air quality and noise levels for Albany citizens.

Please reduce parking lots and instead build bike trails, safe pedestrian infrastructure, and plant vegetation to help keep these biking and walking commuters cool and safe.

Do not build a perimeter fence that walls this part of the city off from the rest of Albany.

Encourage development of new commercial, residential, and mixed-use space to bring tax dollars to Albany, have housing that is in close proximity to the many jobs here, and have the other services that residents will need.

Apartments, paths, trees -- NOT PARKING LOTS. WE ARE NOT IN THE 1960s. Let's not design something like we are.

Thank you.

Jackie Gonzales





FW: Comments on Wadsworth Labs Project

Date Wed 10/30/2024 11:52 AM

[Learn why this is](#)

important

Connor,
Another comment received in the DASNY mailbox.
Please catalog accordingly.
Thanks,
Bob

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:00 PM

Subject: Comments on Wadsworth Labs Project

[Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on the proposed Wadsworth Center Lab relocation/reconstruction project on the State Office Complex site, as I cannot attend the public hearing on October 30th.

I am an Albany resident. I commute from my home in Downtown Albany to my job as a biomedical researcher and professor at the University at Albany. My comments here are in my private capacity.

My commute from Downtown to the UAlbany Uptown campus is by bike, bus (thank you CDTA Purple Route), and when necessary, by car. I occasionally walk during the warmer months. I urge you to consider development of a real transit plan, with bike lanes, sidewalks, retail, and other mixed use as part of the 1.7 billion dollar plan to build the new State Health Labs. One cannot walk to UAlbany campus or the State Office Campus via Washington as there are no sidewalks. There are no bike lanes. One can walk down Western Ave, but there are no bike lanes. Access is designed with a 1950's mindset where cars rule; we can build something better and more forward thinking.

The State Office complex, and the proposed Wadsworth Labs, are completely disconnected from the Albany neighborhood and from UAlbany. We have an incredible opportunity to attract retail and mixed-use development, perhaps keeping some tax dollars in Albany when state employees grab a quick lunch (that they can walk to!) or the thousands of college students at UAlbany stop by for a late night snacks or do some shopping at new retail establishments.

In addition to the lack of walking and transit options, the unneeded fence also does nothing to facilitate active collaborations between Wadsworth and UAlbany scientists. We have an opportunity to bring together two

incredible research teams from the State Health Labs and a major R1 research university, yet the current plan does not account for how the architecture and infrastructure will inhibit that. We should be encouraging this cross-pollination of ideas to drive new ideas, yet we are actively preventing it. This can drive innovation and high-paying, high-tech jobs and further investment in Albany and New York, but instead, the current plan means Wadsworth will be built in a giant parking lot, surrounded by a fence, and essentially be siloed. That is unacceptable and is a waste of a generational opportunity to improve our city and our state.

We can make Albany better and keep New York as a national leader in public health. We can grow and build, or we can build a fence. I encourage you to strongly oppose the fence and connect Albany and its residents.

Thank you,
Morgan Sammons, PhD
Albany Resident
University at Albany employee

Public Hearing Comment Card

Name: Benjamin Mackrell
Affiliation: Neighborhood resident / 7 Email: [REDACTED]
Address: Capital Streets [REDACTED]

COMMENT: Site design does nothing to better integrate into the city of Albany. Spurring more private vehicle trips & locking the state campus into an outdated and environmentally detrimental land use pattern.



DASNY | Department of Health

New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory
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Public Hearing Comment Card

Name: Marc Johnson
Affiliation: NYS Assembly Fahy Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

COMMENT: I would like to see the property used
for more residential, retail, entertainment space
as well as for the laboratory work



DASNY | Department of Health

New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory
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Outlook

[Draft] (No subject)



Draft saved Fri 11/1/2024 11:19 AM

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:35 PM



Subject: New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory DEIS Comments

[Learn why this is important.](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

Hello,

As an Albany resident, I believe that anything short of re-envisioning the "dead zone" that is the Harriman Campus, and transforming it into a new, vibrant community is completely unacceptable.

While the plan for Wadsworth Lab does not have the scope of an entire re-envisioning, it sets the precedent and condemns the entire site to its existing failed design.

The only way to progress Albany forward is to implement forward-thinking changes. This means developing mixed-use (commercial, residential, recreational) and mixed-income, and "missing middle" (3-4 story multi family dwellings) communities!

Communities all across the US are doing this with similar mid-century sites, why can't Albany? Are we stuck in the past, and unable to move forward?

[Here](#) is a case study from Covington, Kentucky - a city not even listed in the US News top 150 US cities, compared to Albany's 81 on that list. Closer to home, similar success stories can be found in places like Syracuse, NY. [Check out](#) the Franklin Sq redevelopment project from the early 90s. Onondaga County is looking to do it again with the dead [Shoppingtown Mall](#) complex in Dewitt.

These communities have recognized the importance of acknowledging past mistakes and have taken huge strides to build themselves a better future. Meanwhile, Albany seems stuck in the mud. Ultimately, it will cost us dearly as we continue to lose out to these cities in terms of attracting and retaining residents.

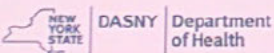
NYS needs to stop perpetuating these proven mistakes, and they needed to have stopped yesterday!

Best,
Sachin

Public Hearing Comment Card


Name: Saeha M. Lu
Affiliation: Coald Streets Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

COMMENT: I want to see Harriman incorporate the neighborhoods north, east, south, and north east better, ideally by extending the grid into the complex. This is in NYS' best interest as the employees they are seeking to recruit (like me!) find mixed - use vibrant communities more desirable.



New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory
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 Outlook

[Draft] (No subject)

Draft saved Fri 11/1/2024 11:21 AM

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:25 PM

Subject: Public Hearing Comment

[Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

Hi,

I live at 78 Belvidere Ave, Albany, NY and I can see the proposed project site from my front door.

I'm listening to the live feed and I respect all of the comments being made about making the project more inclusive and green but what I don't understand is why DASNY is now all-of-a-sudden responsible for righting all the wrongs of state campus planners 60 years ago.

Fences make great neighbors. Stop the delays. Get shovels in the ground. Please include more than the required number of EV parking spaces to support more sensible commuting practices.

Thank you,

Tim Cooney





Outlook

[Draft] (No subject)



Draft saved Thu 11/14/2024 12:19 PM



Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:59 AM



Subject: Comment for the Record on the Proposed NYS Life Sciences Bldg. at the Harriman Campus, Albany, New York: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (October 15, 2024)

[Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

I attended the October 30 meeting required by the agency on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the subject project.

A variety of concerns were presented at this meeting and in previous public meetings that are required under the law. My review of the previous testimony and documents does not reveal that my specific concern has been addressed. If so, I would appreciate a response with that information.

My comment relates to the **proposed 930 parking spaces that are figured into the plan**. I do not have professional expertise to offer as to the merit of the number that are required for the proposed facility, but I am surprised that in reviewing the document there is no mention of how the proposed building (and occupancy) can meet the requirements and objectives of the CLCPA and opportunities.

At the very least, there should be electric charging stations for automobiles in a reasonable number to accommodate personnel who will work at the facility. Priority should be given to all measures that will reduce production of greenhouse gases at this NYS facility. Retrofitting current buildings usually involves great expenditures while incorporating sound environmental goals into plans before shovels hit the ground can be cost containment.


Other and previous commenters have referenced public transportation goals and plans for employees to use public transportation. I support those goals and plans.

As a resident of the nearby Melrose neighborhood for over 50 years, I believe that integration of the "campus" into Albany neighborhoods/communities is important. The siting of the Laboratory is an opportunity to implement present and future environmental goals as a "state of the art" example of NYS commitment to a quality environment for employees and residents of the community.

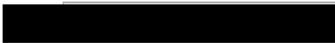
Aimee Allaud





 Outlook

[Draft] (No subject)



Draft saved Mon 11/18/2024 10:35 AM



Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 11:58 PM



Subject: LSPHL DEIS Public Comment



[Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use caution before opening links / attachments.

I'd like to echo the comments of Sandy M. (CDTC), dated April 14th 2024. Aligning the proposed parking facilities with the current ring-roads further entrenches the Harriman Campus' auto-centric design and makes any future integration with Albany's street network next to impossible. The parking lots come with an opportunity cost and continue to incentivise driving.

At minimum, the design should consider allocating space for an east-to-west multi-use path linking to Albany's proposed bicycle network when completed. The current ring-road is a high-stress route, and internal pathways have inefficient routing. Having cycled to the campus multiple times, I can attest to the need for direct, low-stress routes.

Thank you for your time,
Andrew Obringer