

Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

CHAIN WORKS DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Lead Agency: City of Ithaca Planning and Development Board
City of Ithaca
108 East Green Street
Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

DGEIS Adequacy: March 8, 2016
DGEIS Public Hearing: March 29, 2016
Comment Period Ends: May 10, 2016

UNCHAINED PROPERTIES - developer

FAGAN ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS - project lead and civil engineering

HARTER, SECREST, AND EMERY - environmental, land use, and zoning law

CHARENTREUL | JENSEN | STARK ARCHITECTS - architecture and planning

WHITHAM PLANNING AND DESIGN - project planning approvals

STREAM COLLABORATIVE - zoning development and design guidelines

LA BELLA P.C. - environmental consulting

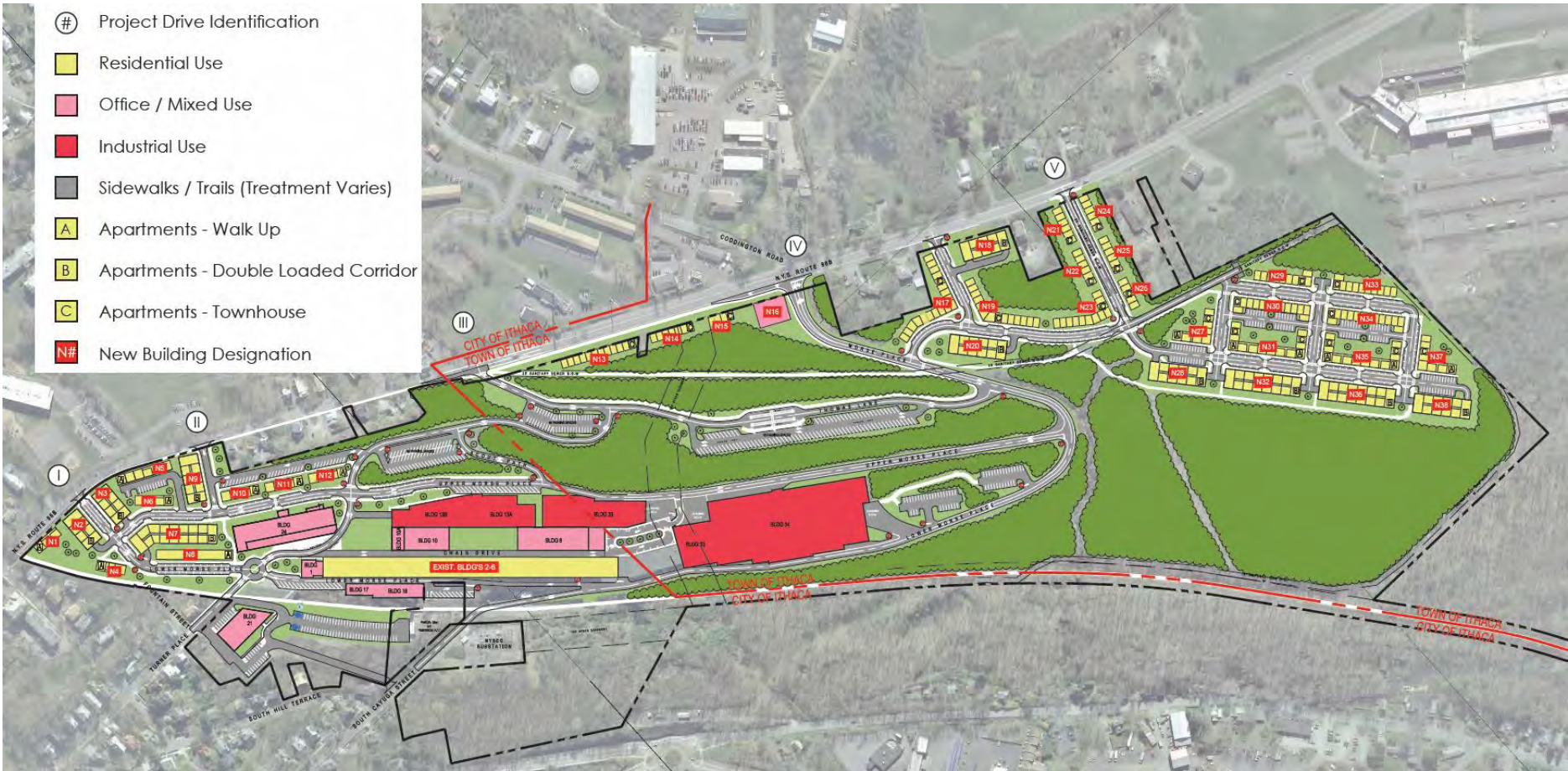
SRF & ASSOCIATES - traffic and transportation engineering

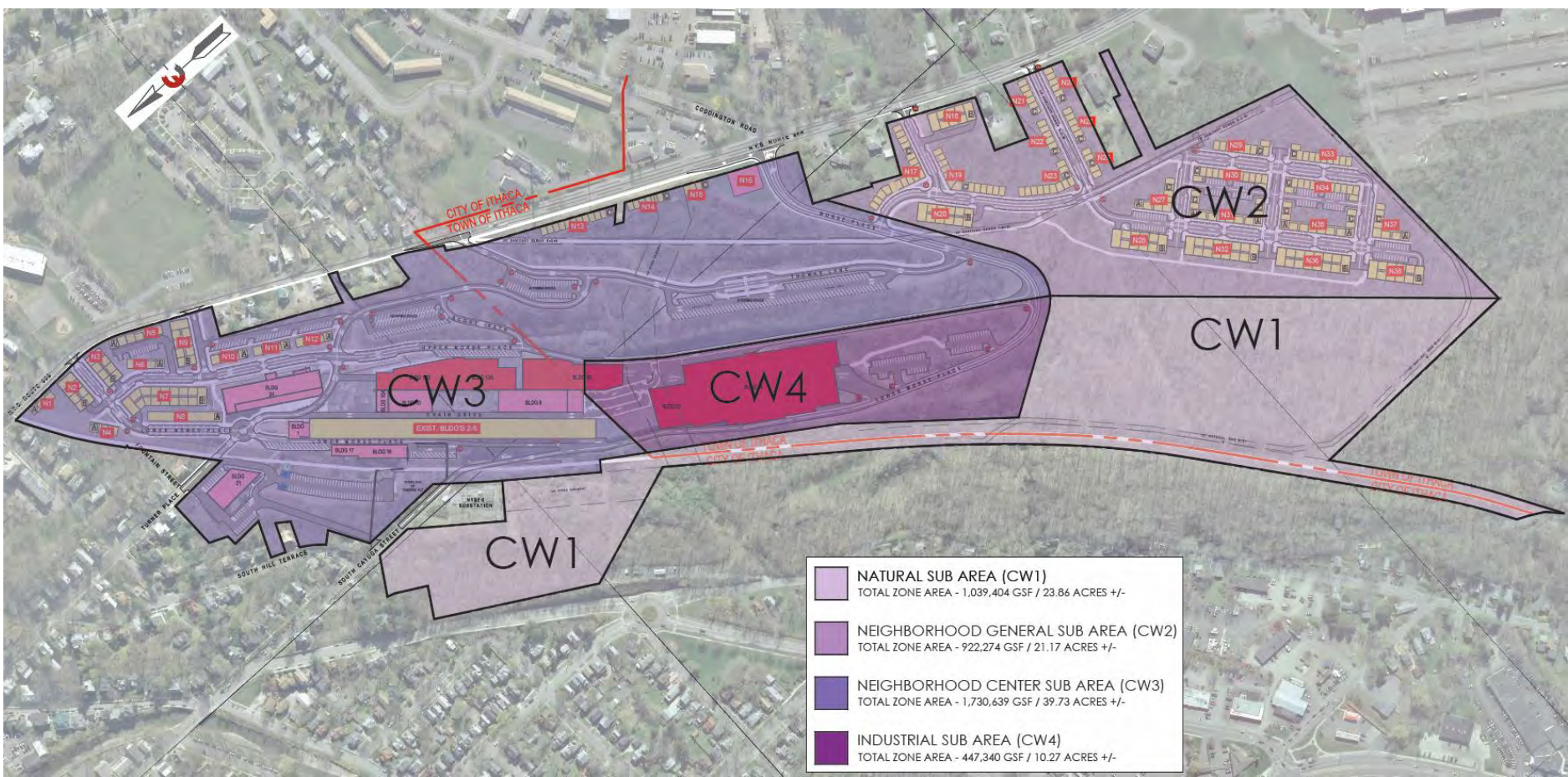
RANDALL + WEST - LEED ND and planning consulting

BROUS CONSULTING - public outreach

AUSTIN + MERGOLD - architecture, branding and outreach

- Ⓝ Project Drive Identification
- Residential Use
- Office / Mixed Use
- Industrial Use
- Sidewalks / Trails (Treatment Varies)
- A Apartments - Walk Up
- B Apartments - Double Loaded Corridor
- C Apartments - Townhouse
- N# New Building Designation





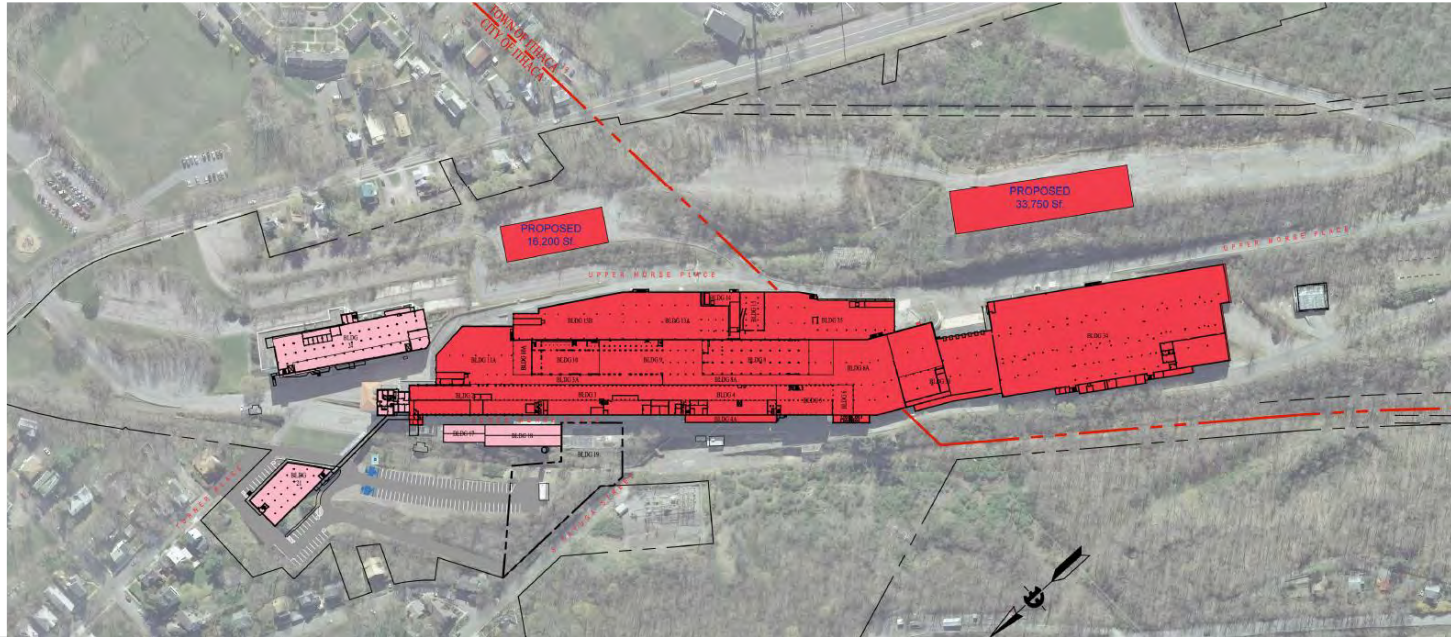
Reasonable Alternatives to the Project

No Action Alternative - Existing, sprawling complex of buildings would remain idle. Remediation based on existing ROD (industrial use only) continues.



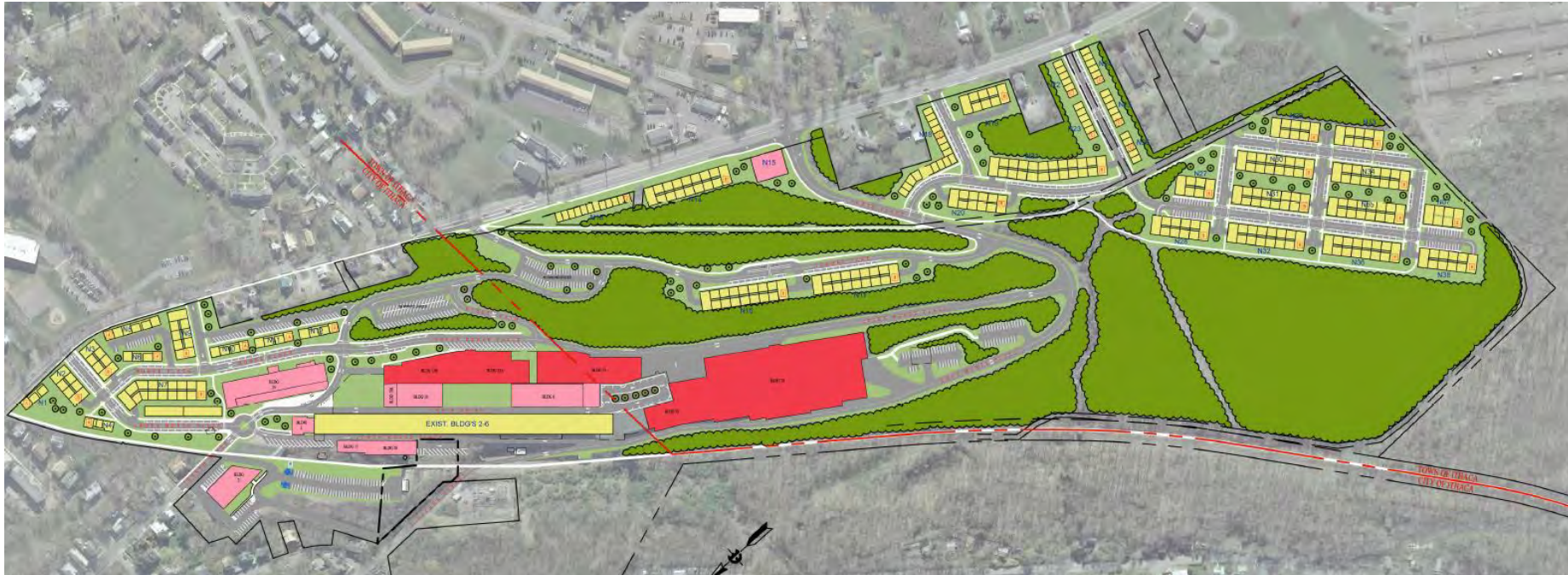
Reasonable Alternatives to the Project

Development in Accordance with Existing Zoning - Five out of seven zoning classifications at the site are not industrial. However, ROD only allows industrial uses, so development would be limited to industrial and ancillary uses.



Reasonable Alternatives to the Project

Maximum Development Scenario - Develop Site utilizing the maximum build-out. Density 25% greater than preferred project.



Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Land Use and Zoning (Section 5.1)**
 - **Impact:** The proposed rezoning will allow for a greater variety of uses, such as office, retail, restaurant/café, and higher density residential, than the surrounding area and what is currently allowed at the Site.
 - **Mitigation:** Design Standards implementing LEED ND guidelines for sustainable, urban-style development and phased development will mitigate the impact of the higher-density mix of uses. Preliminary site plan approval of Concept Plan ensures Planning Board review of significant changes.

 - **Land (Section 5.2)**
 - **Impact:** The Project will require changes to topography through cut and fill, erosion, and possible blasting of bedrock.
 - **Mitigation:** Only areas with a slope of 20% or less will be developed. Impact will also be mitigated by grading plans and development and implementation of generic and specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans and Best Management Practices.
-

Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Water Resources (Section 5.3)**
 - **Impact:** Proposed crossing of unnamed streams, potential exposure to contaminated groundwater during construction, and likely changes to stormwater runoff.
 - **Mitigation:** Project will maintain a 50-foot buffer from streams and implement DEC design standards where stream-crossing is necessary. DEC approved groundwater management plan will be followed if contaminated groundwater is encountered during construction, and generic and specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans will be developed for the Site.

- **Vegetation and Fauna (Section 5.4)**
 - **Impact:** Vegetated areas will decrease by 11%. No threatened or endangered species.
 - **Mitigation:** Natural Sub Area CW1 will preserve the most valuable vegetation—an Appalachian Oak-Hickory forest—and assist with displaced wildlife.

Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Historic and Archaeological Resources (Section 5.6)**
 - **Impact:** Select demolition for site circulation and greater openness. Demolition may prevent National Register designation. There are no known, identified, or suspected archaeological resources.
 - **Mitigation:** Building removal will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines. Remaining historical buildings will be restored and/or rehabilitated to preserve, reflect, and promote their inherent historical and architectural significance.
- **Utilities (Section 5.8)**
 - **Impact:** Increased usage and demand, which all service suppliers anticipate having sufficient capacity to meet. Increased usage could also increase light spillage and create sky glow.
 - **Mitigation:** “Dark Sky” techniques, shut off controls (e.g. sensors, timers, and motion detectors), and confinement and minimization of lighting to the extent practicable.

Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Air Quality (Section 5.9)**
 - **Impacts:** No significant impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions. CO₂ from heating buildings exceed threshold criteria.
 - **Mitigation:** In addition to the mitigation effects inherent in LEED ND buildings, alternative energy generation at the Site will be studied.
- **Visual and Aesthetic Resources (Section 5.10)**
 - **Impact:** Existing and new buildings will be visible from several locations throughout the area.
 - **Mitigation:** Conceptual Site Layout Plan and Design Standards will mitigate visual impacts through the careful placement and design of proposed structures.

Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Community Services (Section 5.11)**
 - **Impact:** Local police, fire, emergency medical services, solid waste management, and other governmental and educational facilities have sufficient capacity to serve the Project.
 - **Mitigation:** Additional tax base generated from the increased property assessment for the Site, sales tax, and other tax revenue will offset any increased cost on community services.
- **Open Space and Recreation (Section 5.12)**
 - **Positive Impact:** An area otherwise not open to the public will be made available.
 - **Mitigation:** CW1 conservation area and easement for the Gateway Trail will all positively impact open space and recreation.

Summary of Potential Significant Impacts and Mitigation

- **Construction Activities (Section 5.13)**
 - **Impact:** Erosion, site runoff, disposal of contaminated soil/fill and construction debris, potential exposure to contaminated media, and temporary impacts to traffic, air quality, and ambient noise levels.
 - **Mitigation:** Implement a DEC-approved site management plan and comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, as well as applicable generic and specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans. Use on-site staging area.



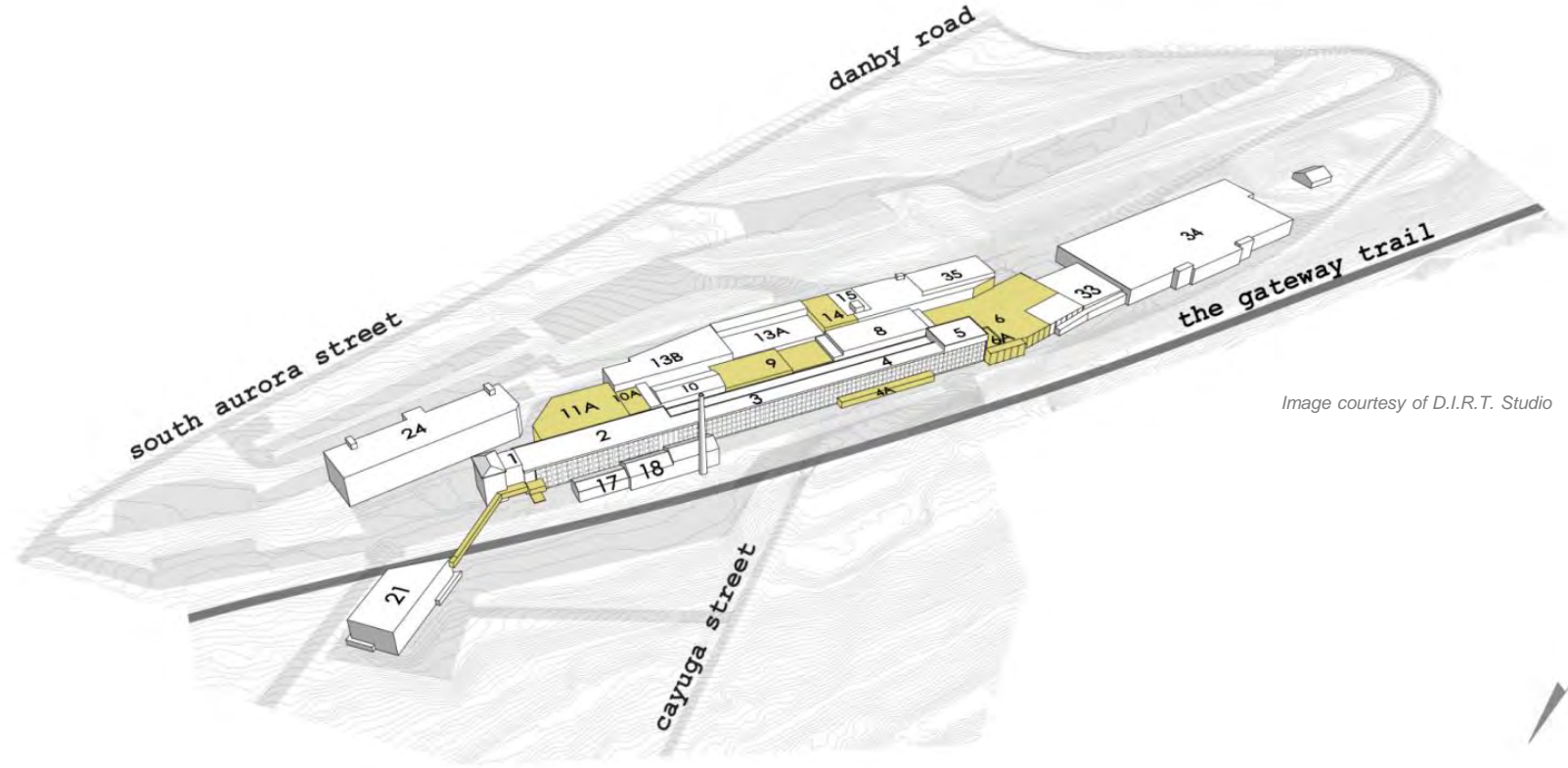


Image courtesy of D.I.R.T. Studio

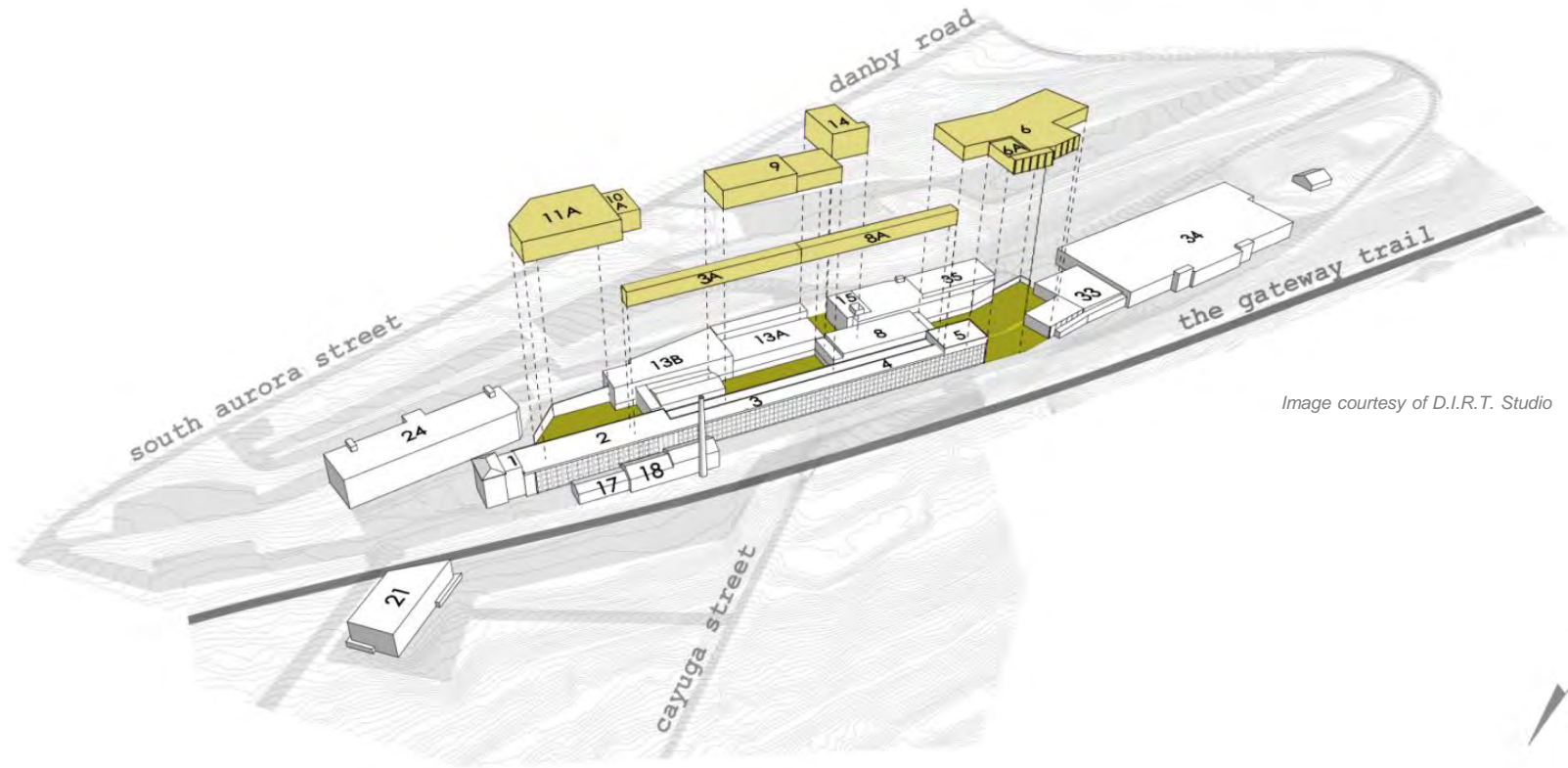
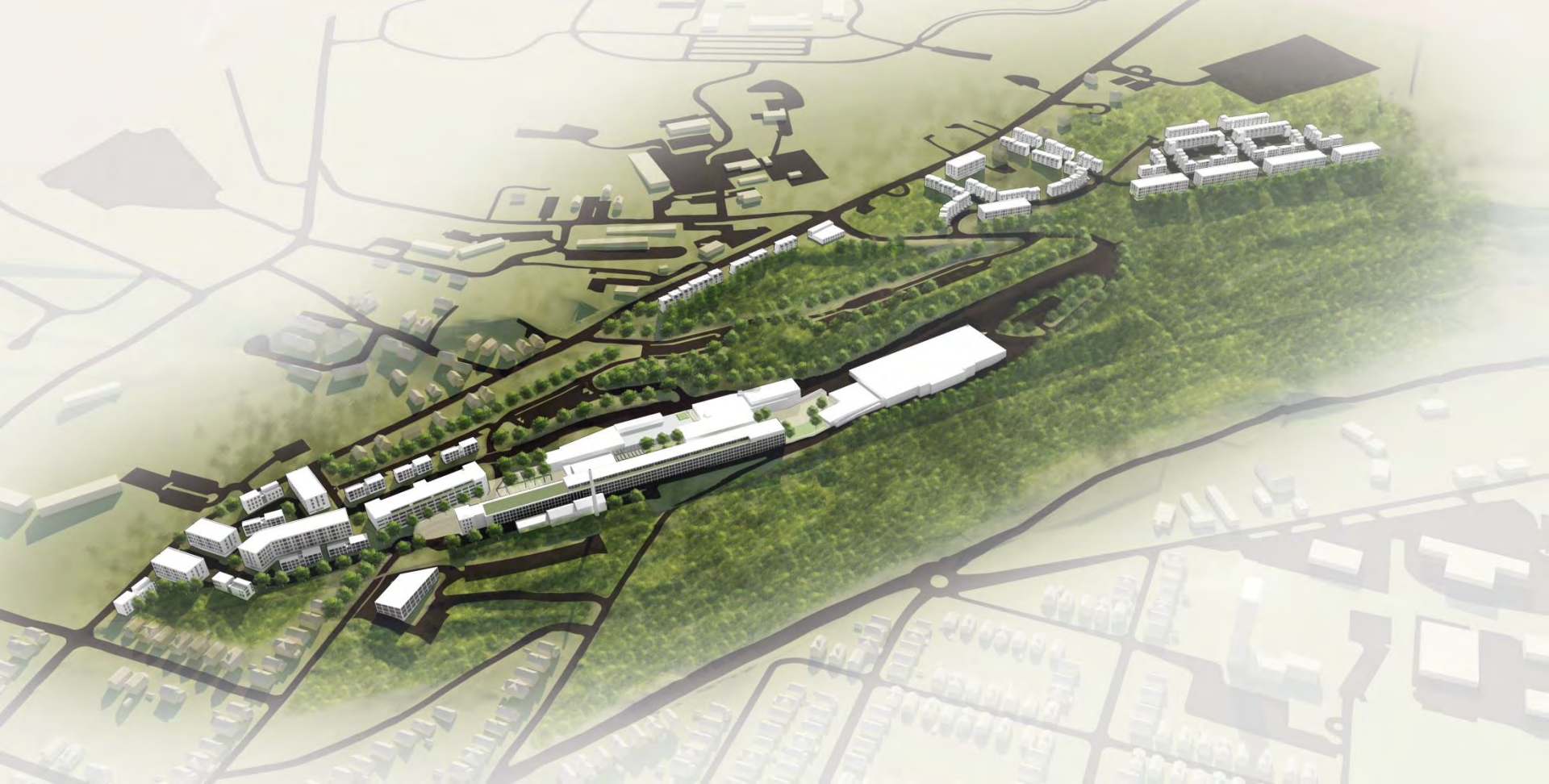
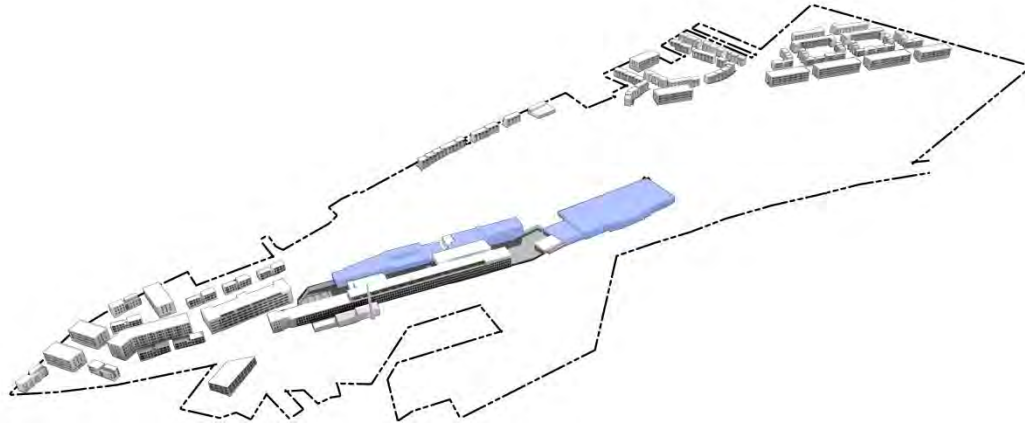


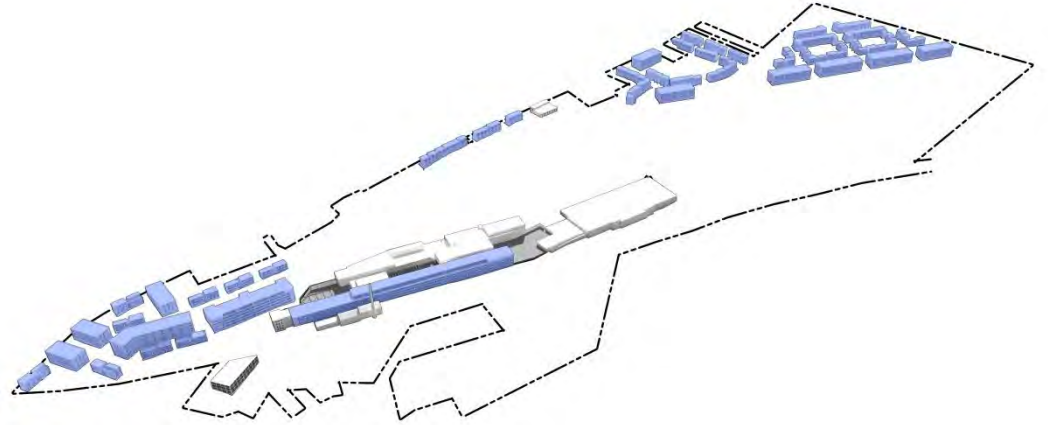
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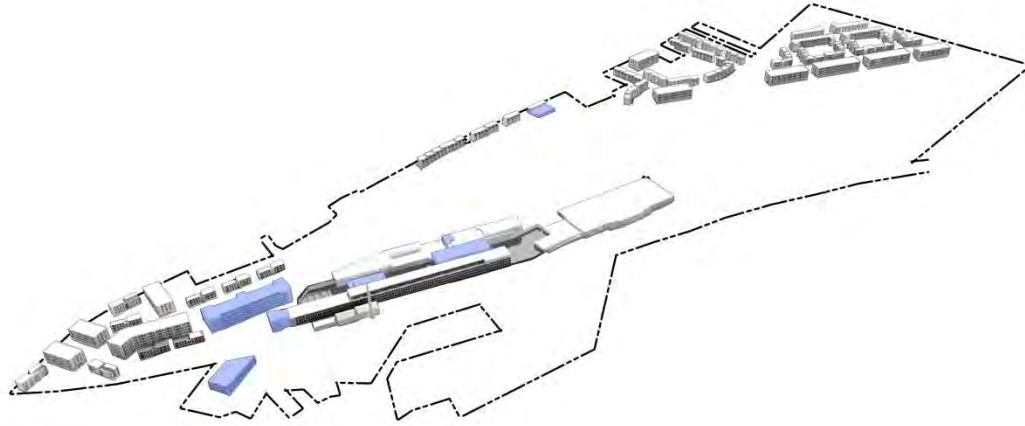




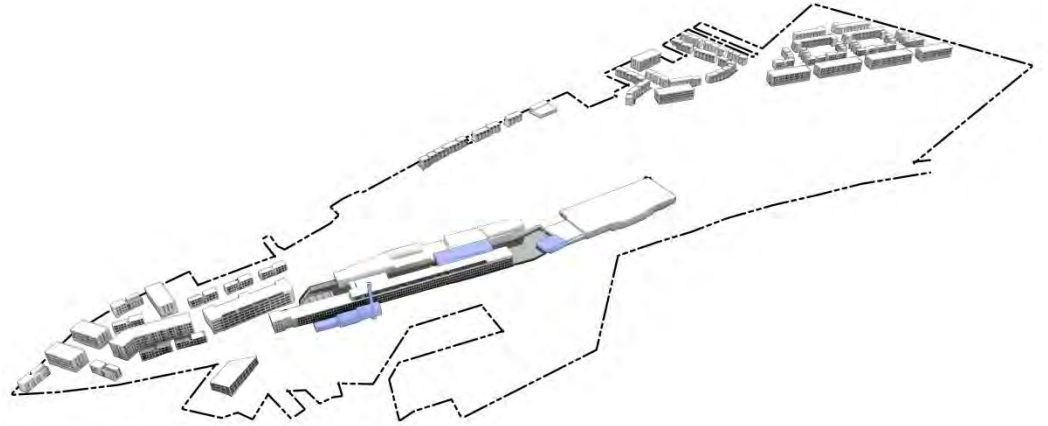
INDUSTRIAL USE LOCATIONS



RESIDENTIAL USE LOCATIONS



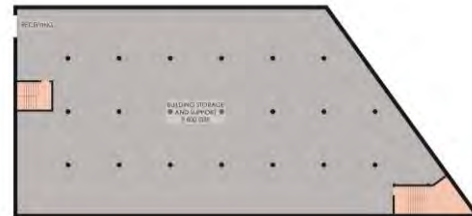
COMMERCIAL OFFICE USE LOCATIONS



COMMERCIAL RETAIL USE LOCATIONS



WEST ELEVATION



BASEMENT



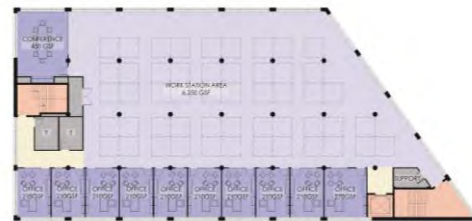
EAST ELEVATION



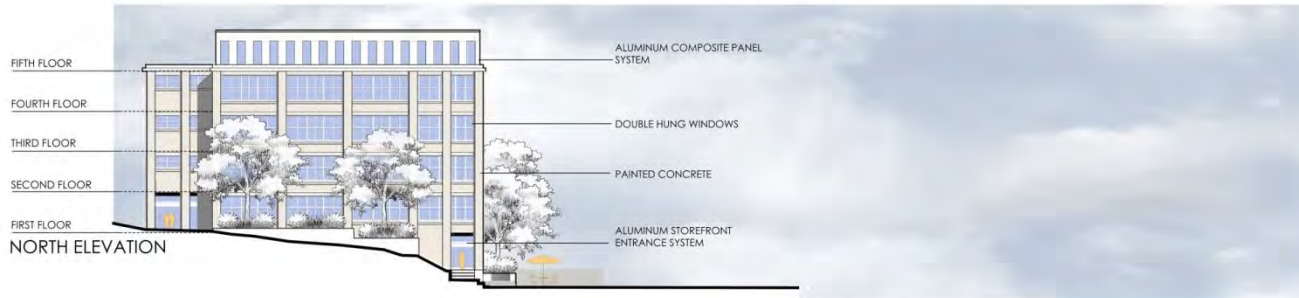
FIRST FLOOR

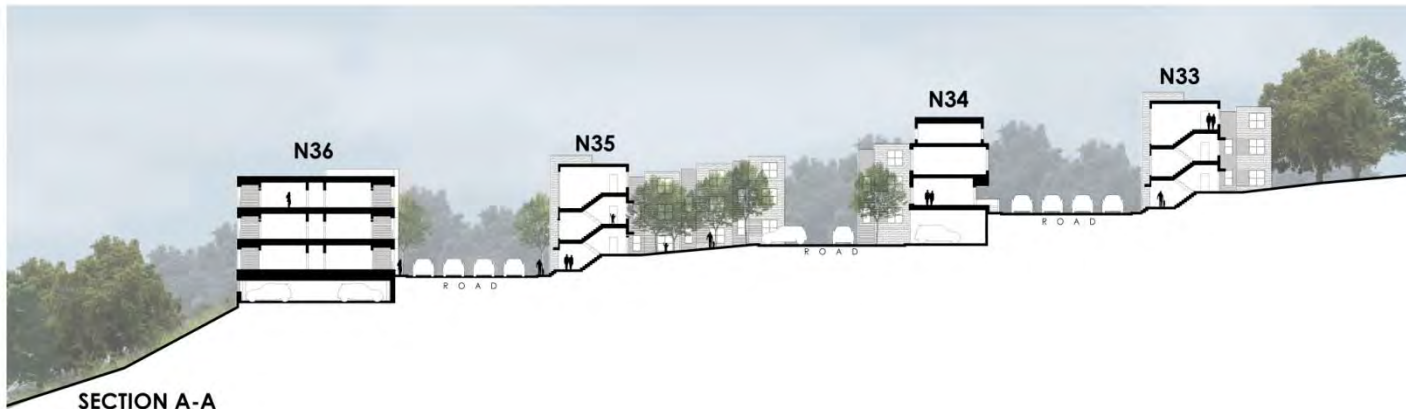


NORTH ELEVATION

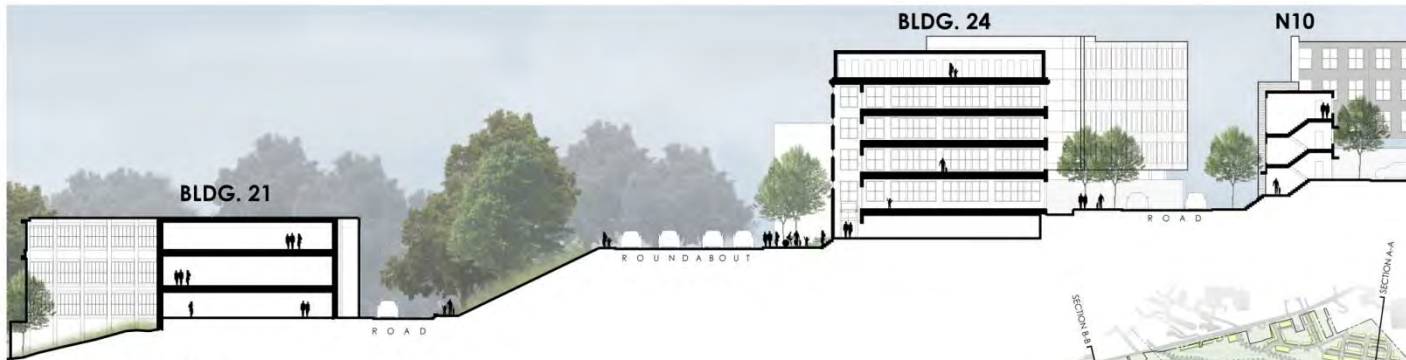


SECOND / THIRD



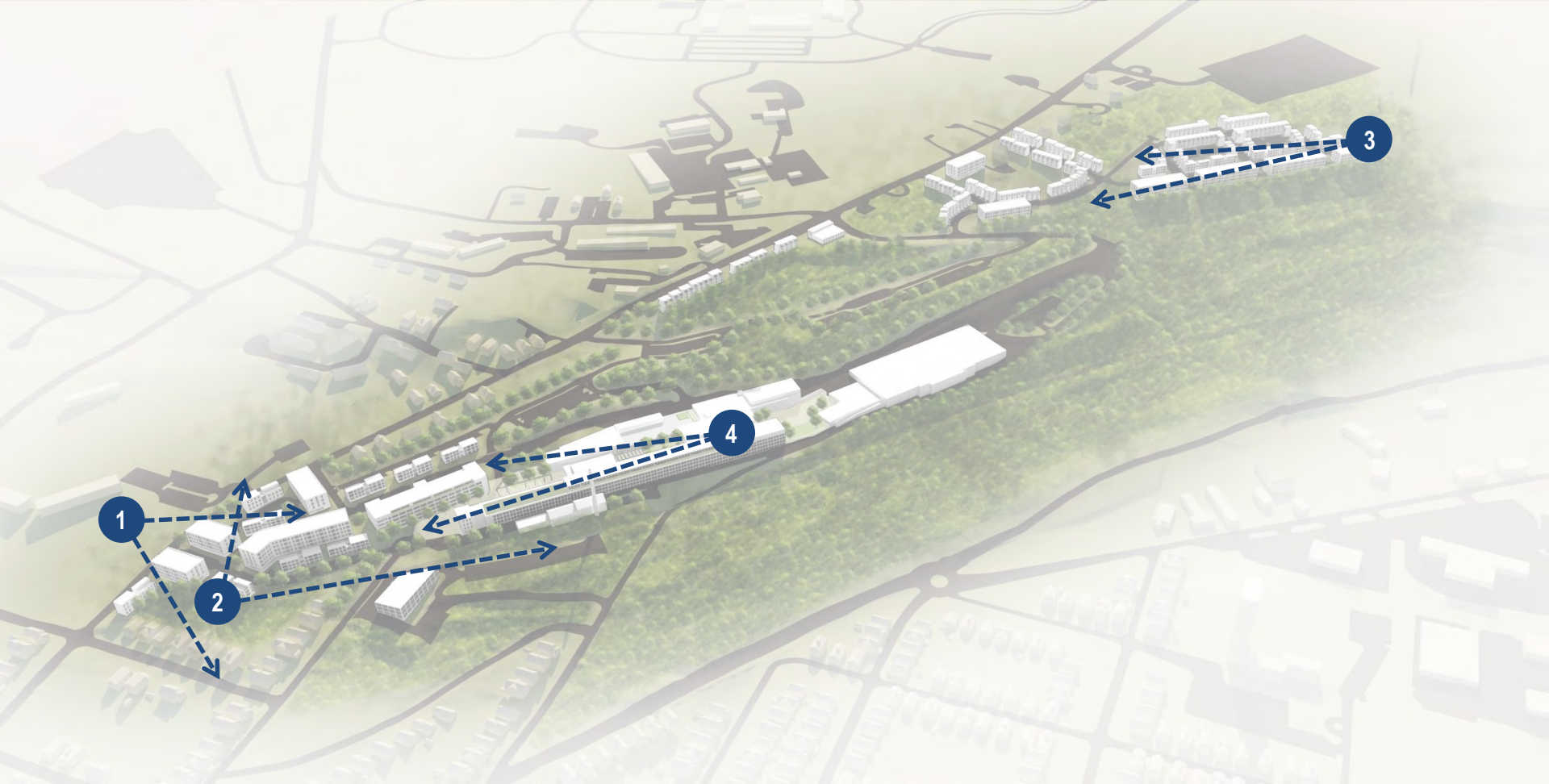


SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B













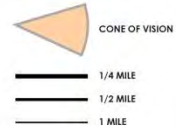
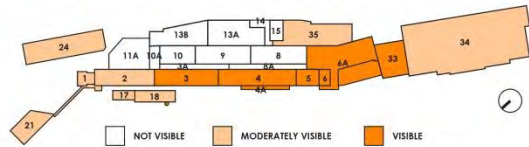


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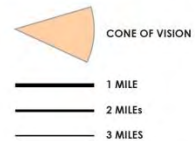
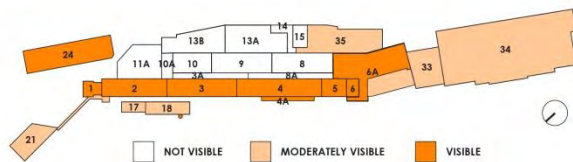
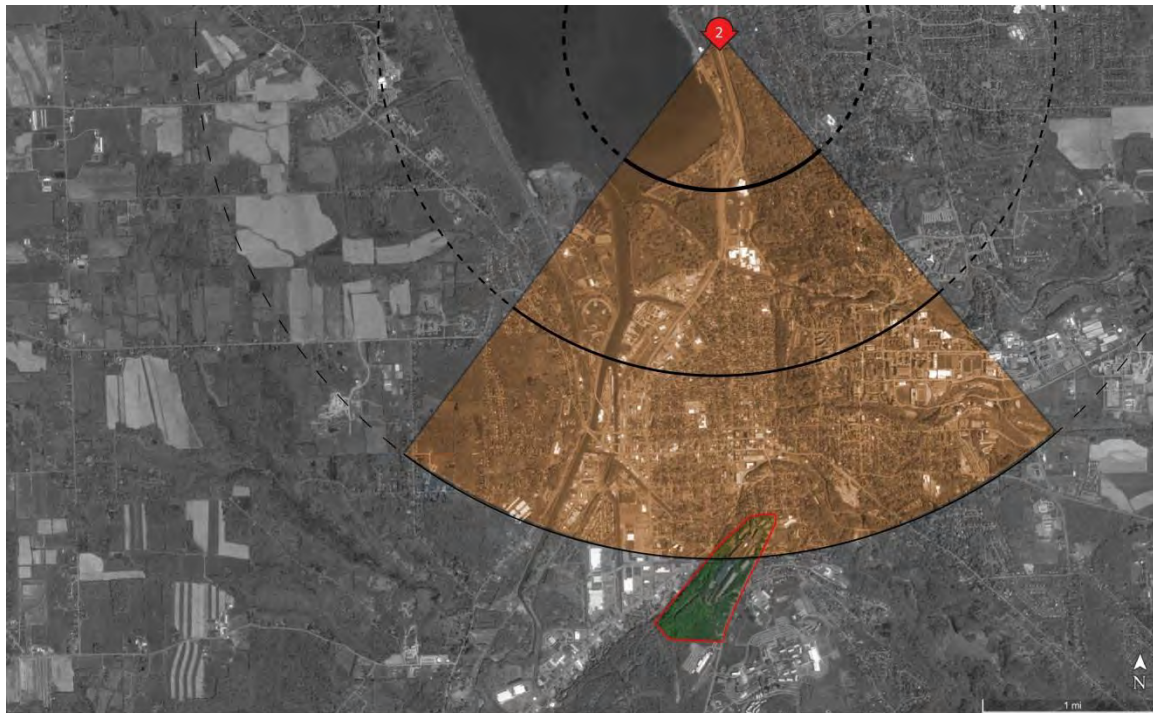


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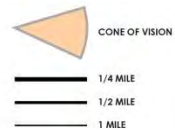
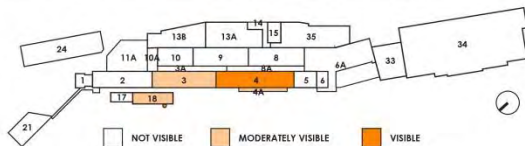
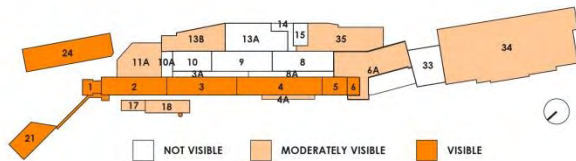


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NOT VISIBLE
 MODERATELY VISIBLE
 VISIBLE

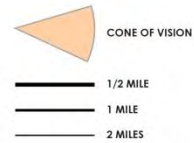


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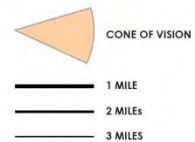
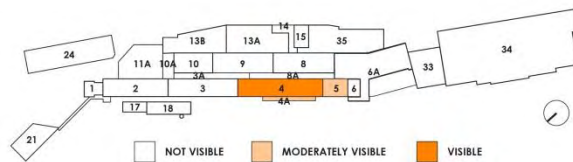
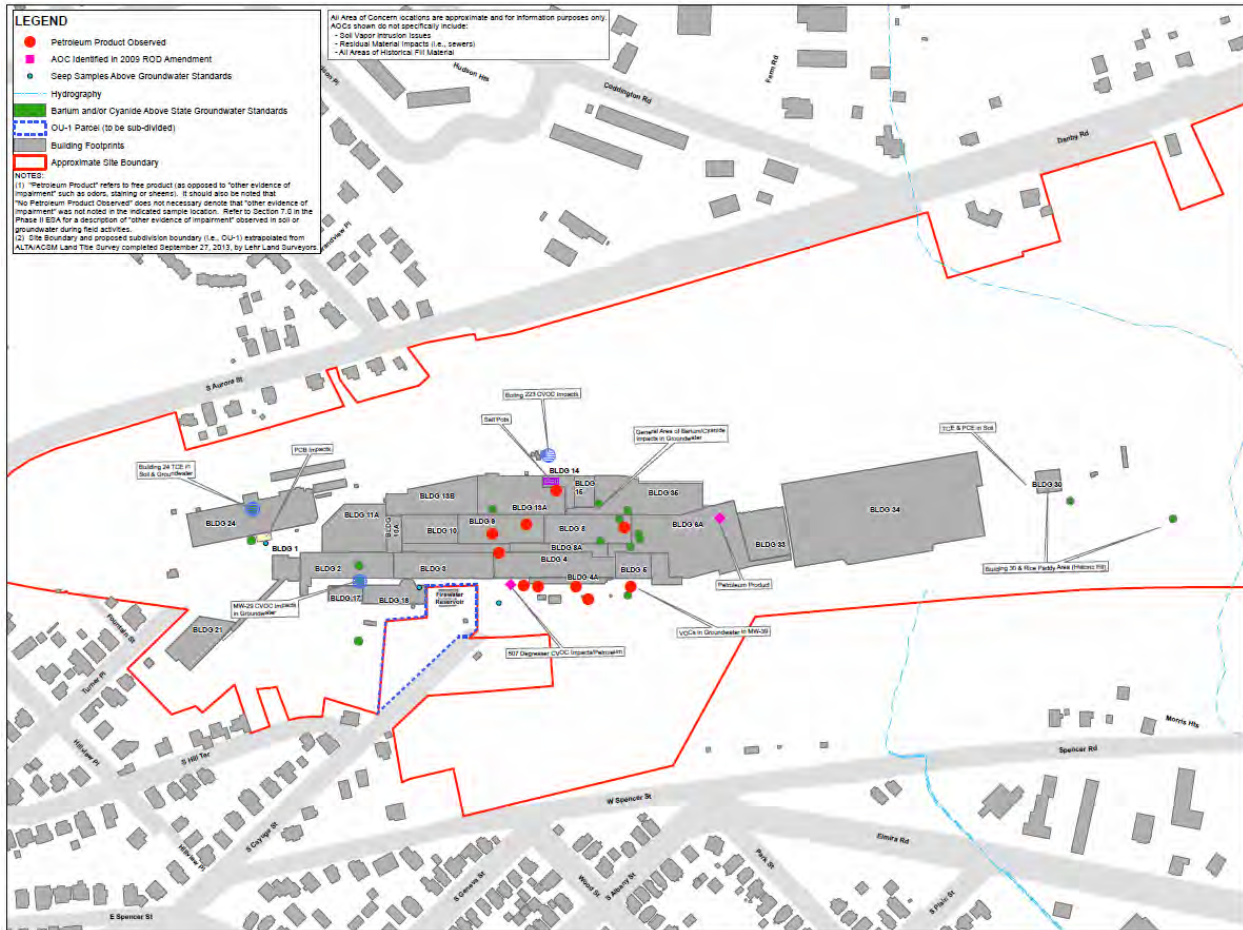


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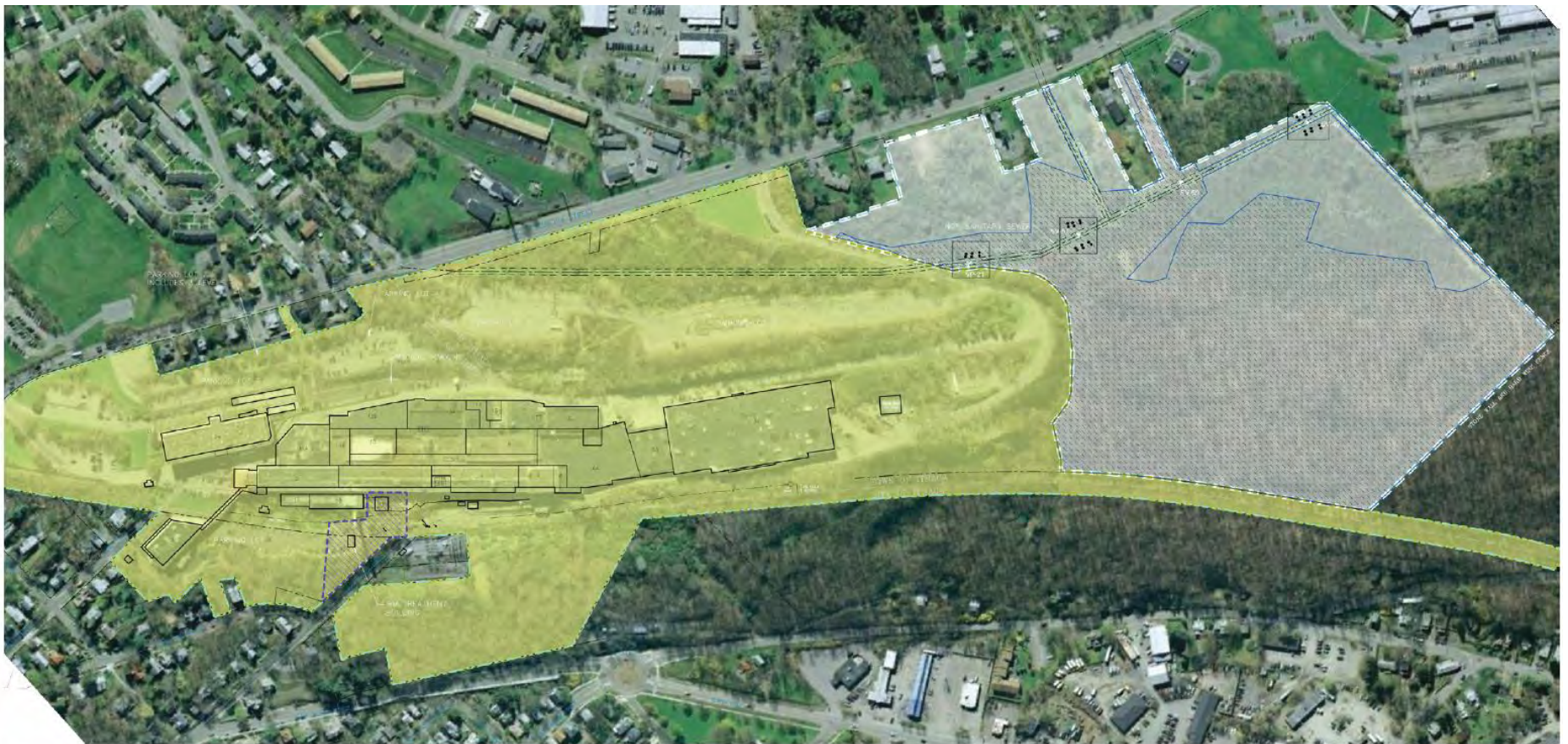


Figure 5.5-6: Boundary Reassessment - Adapted from WSP Report (FE) *

Section 5.5

Public Health/Environmental Mitigation

- Define nature and extent of impacts at AOCs
- Evaluate remedial approaches
- Amend ROD to allow mixed use with residential
- Engineering and institutional controls to apply to:
 - Portion of CW1
 - CW3
 - CW4
- Tenant compliance with existing laws such as:
 - Permitting discharges to media
 - Community Right to Know laws
 - SPCC plans

Public Health/Environmental Mitigation: Possible Remedial Strategies

- Dig and haul soils/fill
- Cover or cap
- Solidification/stabilization of soils/fill
- In-situ chemical treatment of soil/groundwater
- Pump and treat groundwater and/or soil vapor
- Sub-slab depressurization for SVI

Public Health/Environmental Mitigation: Institutional/Engineering Controls

- Environmental Easement
- Site Management Plan
 - Excavation Work Plan
 - Groundwater Management Plan
 - Community Air Monitoring Plan
 - Cap inspections and maintenance
 - SVI mitigation, operation and maintenance
 - Periodic reporting
- Evaluate any new builds in CW3 and CW4 for SVI
- Dust suppression when necessary

Section 5.7

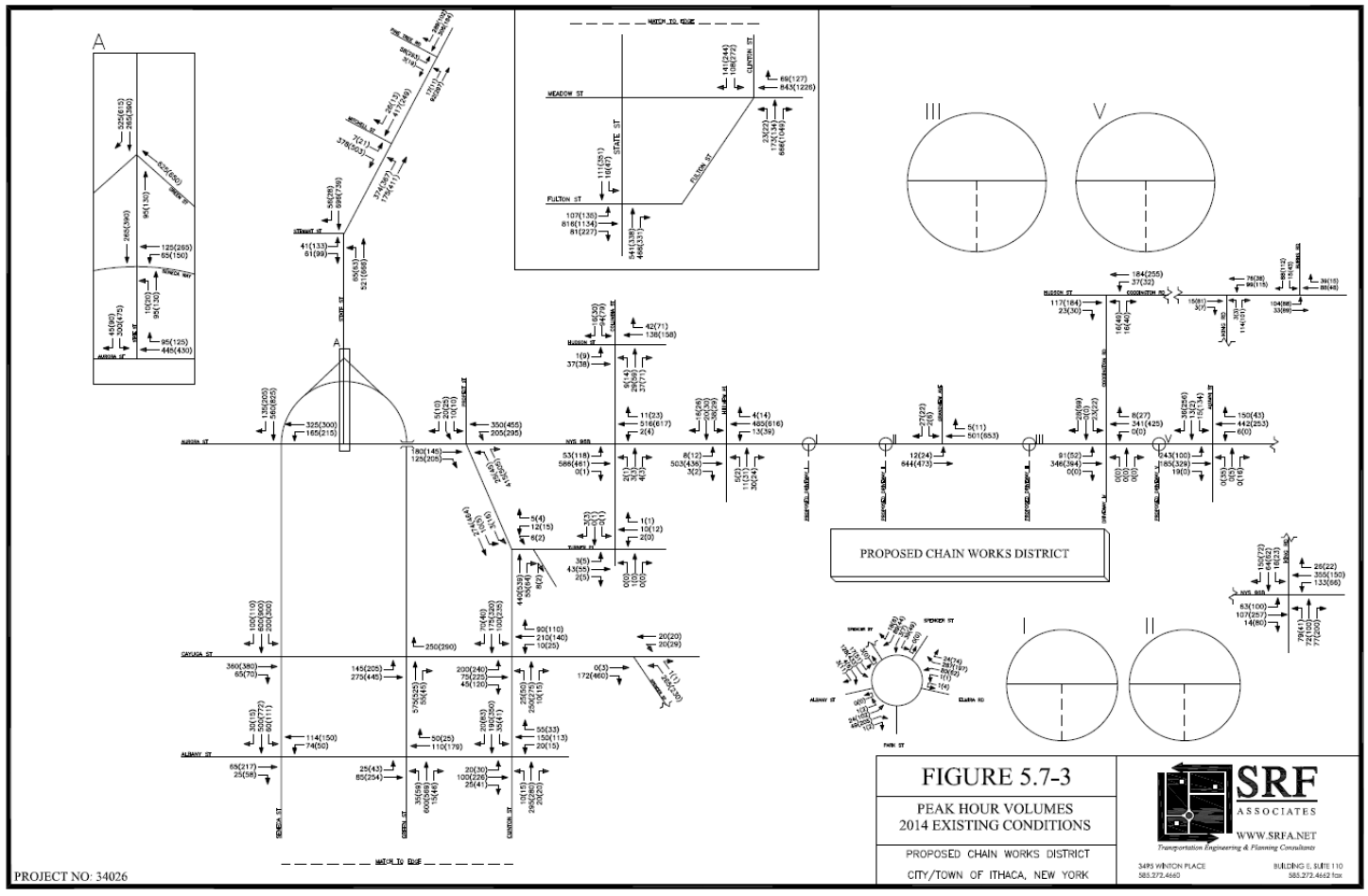
Transportation and Circulation

- **Purpose:** Identify and evaluate the potential traffic and transportation impacts
 - **Scope:** What is our study area? Agency coordination
 - **Existing Conditions:** How are we operating today?
 - **Developed Conditions:** What is being built? Units, Size? Parking generation?
 - **Trip Generation Estimates and Reductions:** Multi-modal Credits
 - **Capacity Analysis Results:** How does it impact the study intersections?
 - **Recommended Mitigation:** TDM Programs, Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, etc.
-

Data collection
AM Peak (7-9 AM)
PM Peak (4-6 PM)

Counted
Passenger vehicles
Heavy vehicles
Pedestrians
Bicyclists

Performed
Level of Service
Turn Lane Warrants
Signal Warrants

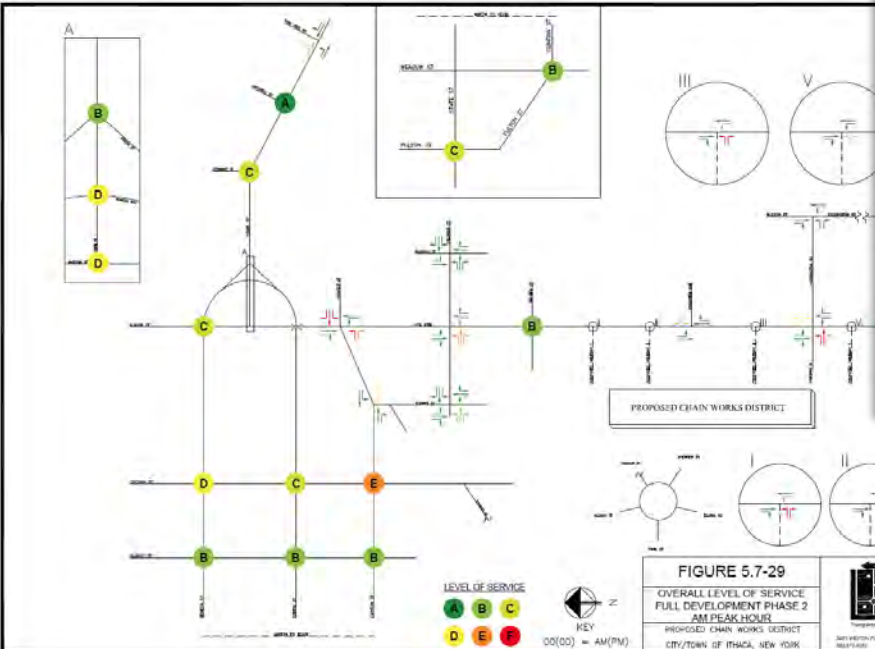
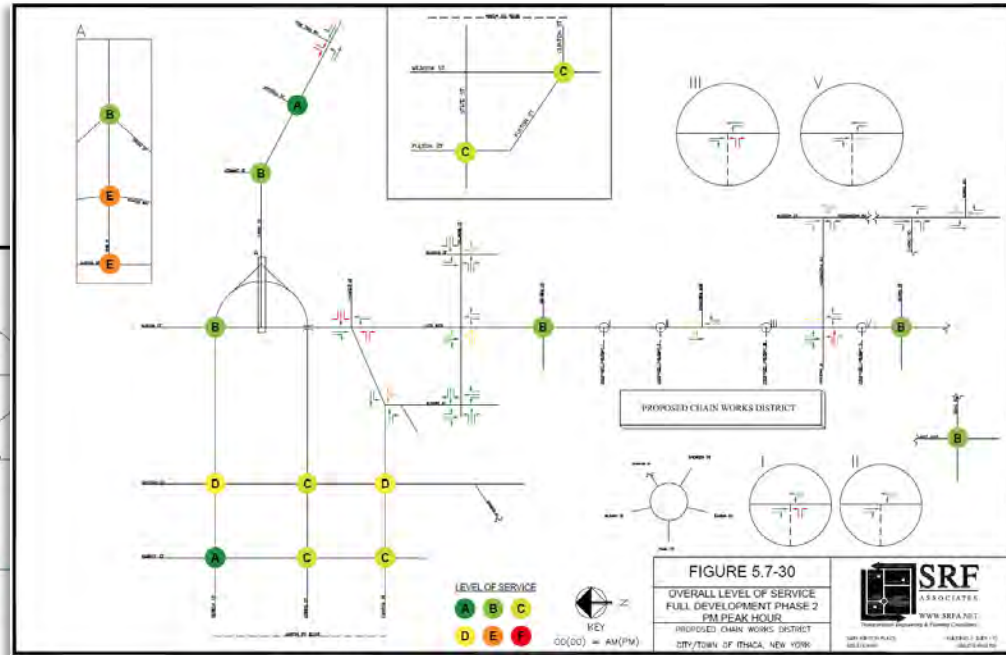


Estimated Trip Generation and Trip Reduction Credits

| PHASE | LAND USES | SIZE | AM PEAK | | PM PEAK | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | ENTER | EXIT | ENTER | EXIT | |
| Phase I | Office | 82.55 ksf | 114 | 15 | 21 | 102 | |
| | Residential | 80 Units | 8 | 25 | 26 | 15 | |
| | Industrial | 170.6 ksf | 94 | 12 | 10 | 66 | |
| | Sub-total | | | 216 | 52 | 57 | 183 |
| | Trip Reductions | | | -30 | -10 | -18 | -40 |
| | Total New Trips | | | 186 | 42 | 39 | 143 |
| Phase II, Full Build-out | Office | 185.6 ksf | 254 | 37 | 48 | 229 | |
| | Residential | 835 Units | 84 | 240 | 259 | 159 | |
| | Retail | 52.2 ksf | 47 | 13 | 88 | 105 | |
| | Restaurant | 7.2 ksf | 0 | 0 | 36 | 18 | |
| | Industrial | 246.5 ksf | 158 | 23 | 20 | 139 | |
| | Sub-total | | | 543 | 313 | 451 | 650 |
| | Trip Reductions | | | -76 | -63 | -178 | -180 |
| | Total New Trips | | | 467 | 250 | 273 | 470 |
| Full Development | Total New Trips Under Full Development | | 653 | 292 | 312 | 613 | |

Table 5.7-5: Project Traffic Volumes and Adjustments (SRF)

Capacity Analysis Results: Level of Service



Recommended Mitigation

- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**

- Transit
- Bike share
- Bike parking
- Carpooling
- Car share
- Information packages
- Telecommuting and flex schedules

- **Shared Parking**

- **Traffic Signals at Driveway I (Existing Main Entrance) and IV (Coddington Road)**

- **Signal Timing Adjustments**

- **Road Diet along NYS Route 96**

- Coordination with Pedestrian Corridor Study

- **Turn Lanes**

| BENEFIT | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Congestion Reduction | Reduces traffic congestion delays and associated costs. |
| Road & Parking Savings | Reduces road and parking facility costs. |
| Consumer Savings | Helps consumers save money by reducing their need to own and operate motor vehicles. |
| Transport Choice | Improved travel options, particularly for non-drivers. |
| Road Safety | Reduced crash risk |
| Environmental Protection | Reduced air, noise and water pollution, wildlife crashes and other types of environmental damages. |
| Efficient Land Use | Supports strategic land use planning objectives, such as reduced sprawl, urban redevelopment and reduced habitat fragmentation. |
| Community Livability | Improved local environmental quality and community cohesion. |
| Economic development | Supports a community's economic objectives, such as increased productivity, employment, wealth, property values and tax revenues. |
| Physical Fitness and Health | Improved public fitness and health due to more physical activity, usually through increased daily walking and cycling. |

Table 5.7-14: Benefits of TDM Programs (SRF)

| PHASE | LOCATION | MITIGATION MEASURE |
|-------|--|--|
| I | All signalized City Intersections | System-wide signal timing update to ensure optimized signal operation. |
| I | Aurora Street/Clinton Street/Prospect Street | The use of TDM strategies, as described in detail in this report, should be utilized to reduce vehicle trips generated as a result of the Project. |
| I | Seneca Street/Cayuga Street | System-wide update of signal timings as mentioned above. |
| I | Clinton Street/Cayuga Street | TDM strategies as mentioned above. |
| I | Pine Tree Road/Slaterville Road | The intersection should be monitored for delay as it relates to potential future signalization. |
| I | Proposed Driveway I/Aurora Street | Consider installation of a three-color traffic signal after redevelopment of the existing buildings, prior to new development in Sub Areas CW3 and CW4. A study of intersection delay at this point will confirm the need for a potential signal. This signal should be coordinated with the traffic signal at Hillview Place. |
| II | Aurora Street/State Street | Restripe the westbound approach to provide separate left and right-turn vehicle movements during peak hours only. Enforce peak hour ONLY parking restrictions on north side of State St. approach. |
| II | NYS Route 96B/Coddington Road/Proposed Driveway IV | Realign, restripe the intersection to include opposing northbound/southbound left-turn lanes, and install a three-color traffic signal. The Project Sponsor should work with NYSDOT and the property owners affected by any intersection realignment. |
| II | Proposed Driveways III and V at NYS Route 96B | Install northbound left-turn lanes at Proposed Driveways III and V. |
| II | Cayuga Street/Seneca Street | System-wide update of signal timings as mentioned above. |
| II | Cayuga Street/Clinton Street | System-wide update of signal timings as mentioned above. |
| II | Downtown Ithaca | Update a downtown circulation plan with the purpose of developing a workable multimodal circulation system supportive of all modes of travel in the Ithaca CBD. The plan should be flexible to accommodate evolving modes of transportation. |

Table 5.7-15: Mitigation Measures and Thresholds for Implementation (SRF)

Why LEED for Neighborhood Development?

- ✔ Applicable to redevelopment projects containing residential uses, nonresidential uses, or a mix.
- ✔ Projects may be at any stage of the development process, from conceptual planning through construction.
- ✔ Integrative approach to design.



LEED® FOR NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

110 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE



SMART LOCATION & LINKAGE

27 POSSIBLE POINTS

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| PREREQ 1 | Smart Location | REQ |
| PREREQ 2 | Imperiled Species and Ecological Communities | REQ |
| PREREQ 3 | Wetland and Water Body Conservation | REQ |
| PREREQ 4 | Agricultural Land Conservation | REQ |
| PREREQ 5 | Floodplain Avoidance | REQ |
| CREDIT 1 | Preferred Locations | ●●●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 2 | Brownfield Redevelopment | ●● |
| CREDIT 3 | Locations w/ Reduced Automobile Dependence | ●●●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 4 | Bicycle Network and Storage | ● |
| CREDIT 5 | Housing and Jobs Proximity | ●●● |
| CREDIT 6 | Steep Slope Protection | ● |
| CREDIT 7 | Site Design for Habitat/Wetland & Water Body Conservation | ● |
| CREDIT 8 | Restoration of Habitat/Wetlands and Water Bodies | ● |
| CREDIT 9 | Long-Term Cnsvrtn. Mgmt. of Habitat/Wetlands & Water Bodies | ● |



NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERN & DESIGN

44 POSSIBLE POINTS

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| PREREQ 1 | Walkable Streets | REQ |
| PREREQ 2 | Compact Development | REQ |
| PREREQ 3 | Connected and Open Community | REQ |
| CREDIT 1 | Walkable Streets | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 2 | Compact Development | ●●●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 3 | Mixed-Use Neighborhood Centers | ●●●●● |
| CREDIT 4 | Mixed-Income Diverse Communities | ●●●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 5 | Reduced Parking Footprint | ● |
| CREDIT 6 | Street Network | ●● |
| CREDIT 7 | Transit Facilities | ● |
| CREDIT 8 | Transportation Demand Management | ●● |
| CREDIT 9 | Access to Civic and Public Spaces | ● |
| CREDIT 10 | Access to Recreation Facilities | ● |
| CREDIT 11 | Visitability and Universal Design | ● |
| CREDIT 12 | Community Outreach and Involvement | ●● |
| CREDIT 13 | Local Food Production | ● |
| CREDIT 14 | Tree-Lined and Shaded Streets | ●● |
| CREDIT 15 | Neighborhood Schools | ●● |



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDINGS

29 POSSIBLE POINTS

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| PREREQ 1 | Certified Green Building | REQ |
| PREREQ 2 | Minimum Building Energy Efficiency | REQ |
| PREREQ 3 | Minimum Building Water Efficiency | REQ |
| PREREQ 4 | Construction Activity Pollution Prevention | REQ |
| CREDIT 1 | Certified Green Buildings | ●●●●● |
| CREDIT 2 | Building Energy Efficiency | ●● |
| CREDIT 3 | Building Water Efficiency | ● |
| CREDIT 4 | Water-Efficient Landscaping | ● |
| CREDIT 5 | Existing Building Use | ● |
| CREDIT 6 | Historic Resource Preservation and Adaptive Reuse | ● |
| CREDIT 7 | Minimized Site Disturbance in Design and Construction | ● |
| CREDIT 8 | Stormwater Management | ●●●● |
| CREDIT 9 | Heat Island Reduction | ● |
| CREDIT 10 | Solar Orientation | ● |
| CREDIT 11 | On-Site Renewable Energy Sources | ●●● |
| CREDIT 12 | District Heating and Cooling | ●● |
| CREDIT 13 | Infrastructure Energy Efficiency | ● |
| CREDIT 14 | Wastewater Management | ●● |
| CREDIT 15 | Recycled Content in Infrastructure | ● |
| CREDIT 16 | Solid Waste Management Infrastructure | ● |
| CREDIT 17 | Light Pollution Reduction | ● |



INNOVATION & DESIGN PROCESS

6 POSSIBLE POINTS

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| CREDIT 1 | Innovation and Exemplary Performance | ●●●●●● |
| CREDIT 2 | LEED Accredited Professional | ● |



REGIONAL PRIORITY CREDIT

4 POSSIBLE POINTS

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|------|
| CREDIT 1 | Regional Priority | ●●●● |
|----------|-------------------|------|

40-49 POINTS: CERTIFIED 50-59 POINTS: SILVER 60-79 POINTS: GOLD 80+ POINTS: PLATINUM
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE LEED REFERENCE GUIDE FOR GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

| Smart Location & Linkage | | 28 |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| Prereq | Smart Location | Required |
| Prereq | Imperiled Species and Ecological Communities | Required |
| Prereq | Wetland and Water Body Conservation | Required |
| Prereq | Agricultural Land Conservation | Required |
| Prereq | Floodplain Avoidance | Required |
| Credit | Preferred Locations | 10 |
| Credit | Brownfield Remediation | 2 |
| Credit | Access to Quality Transit | 7 |
| Credit | Bicycle Facilities | 2 |
| Credit | Housing and Jobs Proximity | 3 |
| Credit | Steep Slope Protection | 1 |
| Credit | Site Design for Habitat or Wetland and Water Body Conservation | 1 |
| Credit | Restoration of Habitat or Wetlands and Water Bodies | 1 |
| Credit | Long-Term Conservation Management of Habitat or Wetlands and Water Bodies | 1 |

| |
|---|
| Achieve Credit with Building or Landscaping |
| Achieve Credit based on Location |
| Achieve Credit based on Master Plan |
| Achieve Credit with Programing |

Figure 2.5-1: CWD LEED v4 for Neighborhood Development Checklist - Smart Location & Linkage (R+W)

| Neighborhood Pattern & Design | | 41 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Prereq | Walkable Streets | Required |
| Prereq | Compact Development | Required |
| Prereq | Connected and Open Community | Required |
| Credit | Walkable Streets | 9 |
| Credit | Compact Development | 6 |
| Credit | Mixed-Use Neighborhoods | 4 |
| Credit | Housing Types and Affordability | 7 |
| Credit | Reduced Parking Footprint | 1 |
| Credit | Connected and Open Community | 2 |
| Credit | Transit Facilities | 1 |
| Credit | Transportation Demand Management | 2 |
| Credit | Access to Civic & Public Space | 1 |
| Credit | Access to Recreation Facilities | 1 |
| Credit | Visitability and Universal Design | 1 |
| Credit | Community Outreach and Involvement | 2 |
| Credit | Local Food Production | 1 |
| Credit | Tree-Lined and Shaded Streetscapes | 2 |
| Credit | Neighborhood Schools | 1 |

| |
|---|
| Achieve Credit with Building or Landscaping |
| Achieve Credit based on Location |
| Achieve Credit based on Master Plan |
| Achieve Credit with Programing |

Figure 2.5-2: CWD LEED v4 for Neighborhood Development Checklist - Neighborhood Pattern & Design (R+W)

| Green Infrastructure & Buildings | | 31 |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Prereq | Certified Green Building | Required |
| Prereq | Minimum Building Energy Performance | Required |
| Prereq | Indoor Water Use Reduction | Required |
| Prereq | Construction Activity Pollution Prevention | Required |
| Credit | Certified Green Buildings | 5 |
| Credit | Optimize Building Energy Performance | 2 |
| Credit | Indoor Water Use Reduction | 1 |
| Credit | Outdoor Water Use Reduction | 2 |
| Credit | Building Reuse | 1 |
| Credit | Historic Resource Preservation and Adaptive Reuse | 2 |
| Credit | Minimized Site Disturbance | 1 |
| Credit | Rainwater Management | 4 |
| Credit | Heat Island Reduction | 1 |
| Credit | Solar Orientation | 1 |
| Credit | Renewable Energy Production | 3 |
| Credit | District Heating and Cooling | 2 |
| Credit | Infrastructure Energy Efficiency | 1 |
| Credit | Wastewater Management | 2 |
| Credit | Recycled and Reused Infrastructure | 1 |
| Credit | Solid Waste Management | 1 |
| Credit | Light Pollution Reduction | 1 |

Achieve Credit with Building or Landscaping

Achieve Credit based on Location

Achieve Credit based on Master Plan

Achieve Credit with Programing

Figure 2.5-3: CWD LEED v4 for Neighborhood Development Checklist - Green Infrastructure & Buildings (R+W)



New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) competitive grant program for community-scale sustainability projects that are innovative and transformational in their contributions to advancing energy efficiency, renewable energy, or carbon mitigation, plus economic development benefits.

Project awarded \$1.75M in 2015

Chain Works District

SEQR Next Steps

- **DGEIS**

- **Public Comment Period:** Ends May 10, 2016
- **Methods of Providing Comment:**
- Website/EMail: <http://ChainWorksDistrict.com/GEIS/>
- Public Hearings: March 29, 2016
- Written: Lisa Nicholas, AICP, Senior Planner
Planning Division, City of Ithaca
108 E Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

- **FGEIS**

- The Final GEIS must consist of: the DGEIS, including any necessary revisions and supplements; a summary of the substantive comments received and their sources; and the Lead Agency's response to the comments.
- The Notice of Completion of the Final EIS must be prepared, filed distributed and published as described in section 617.12.