

M. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Municipal Services are an important part of daily community life. The Town of Colonie provides a variety of services to residents including local government, police protection, emergency medical services, sewer and water services as well as the Town landfill and recycling program. In addition, volunteer fire companies and the Town's emergency medical services play a significant role in providing vital services to residents of the community. Other municipal services include the Town Library, Senior Citizens Center, and Town operated recreational facilities.

Albany County also provides services to residents and businesses within the Town, as it does for all residents for the County. The County maintains a number of facilities within

the Town, such as the County Jail, Ann Lee Nursing Home, the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve, and an ice skating facility. A number of County roads also traverse the Town, which are patrolled by the County Sheriff's Department. The airport is operated by the Albany County Airport Authority.

A number of the Town, Village and County services mentioned above, such as sewer and water services and roadways are discussed in other sections of this DGEIS. This section includes discussion of Town municipal services within the Study Area and impacts which may result during the 20 year planning period.

Police Protection

The Town of Colonie Police Department is headquartered in the Public Safety Building on Old Wolf Road. Routine patrols are conducted

within the Study Area to insure protection of both public and private properties. Additional police protection is offered by the New York State Police, who have their Troop G headquarters on Route 9, just south of Town Hall. The major role of the State Police, however, is to patrol the State and interstate highways within the Town. The Albany County Sheriff's Department also patrols the County roadways in the Study Area.

Education

Two school districts serve the Study Area; Mohonasen Central and South Colonie Central. Enrollments for the 1995-96 school year are as follows:

Mohonasen	3,066 students
South Colonie	5,633 students

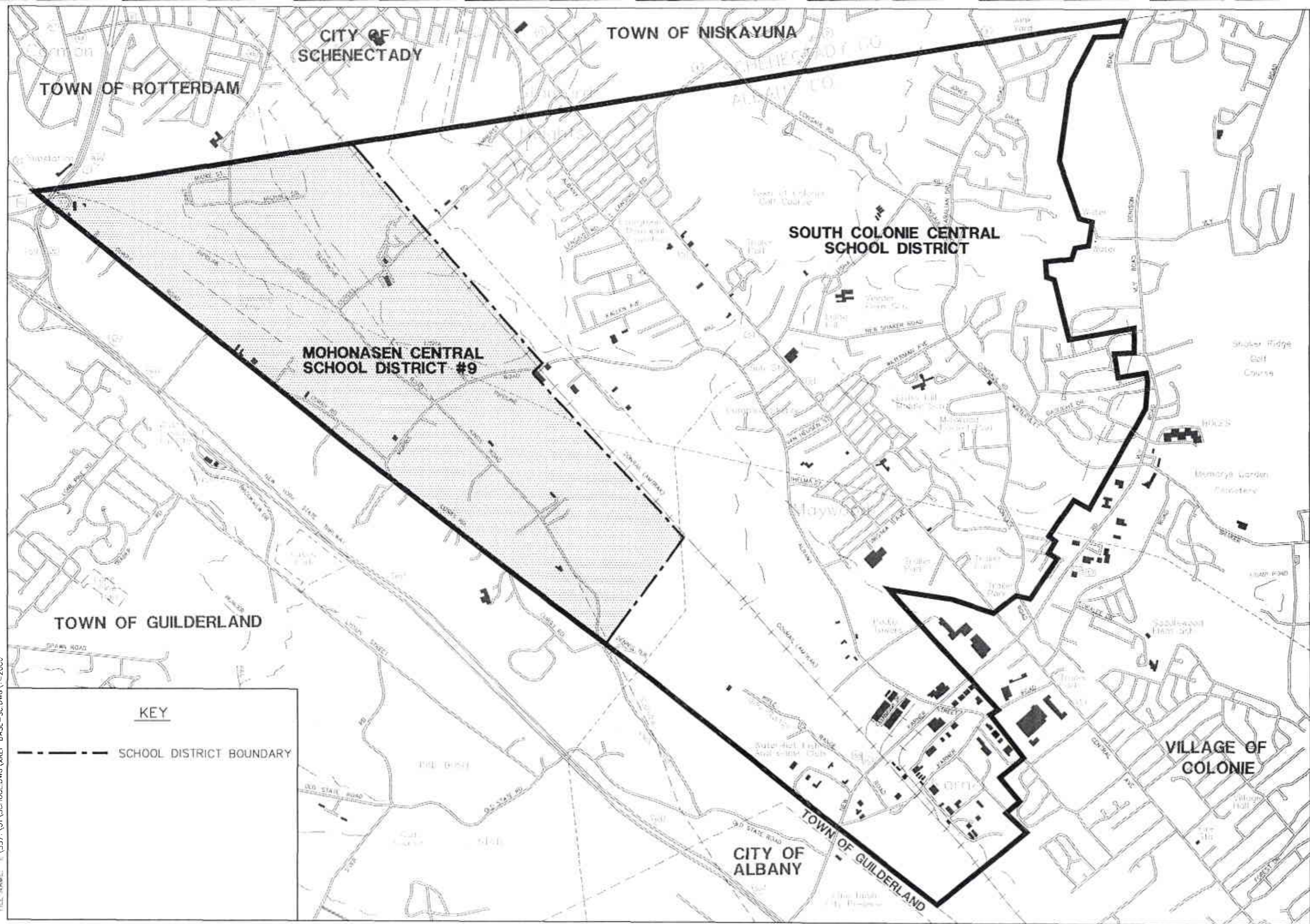
District boundaries are shown on Figure II-M-1. Mohonasen schools serving the Study Area include: Bradt Elementary (K-2), located on Hamburg Street; Pinewood Elementary (grades 3-5), located on Kings Road; Draper Middle School (6-8), located on Curry Road; and Mohonasen Senior High School, also located on Curry Road.

Four South Colonie schools serve the Study Area. They include: Veeder Elementary, located on Lisha Kill Road; Saddlewood Elementary, located in the Village of Colonie on Loralee Drive; Lisha Kill Middle School; and Colonie Central High School located on Sand Creek Road.

Fire Protection

Fire protection is provided by the Midway Fire District and the Stanford Heights Fire District; both are volunteer. Service boundaries are

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KEY

----- SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY



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FIGURE NO. II-M-1

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

LISHA KILL - KINGS ROAD AREA
GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

indicated on Figure II-M-2. Fire companies within the Town have a service area of approximately 5 square miles, which keeps response time at acceptable levels.

Emergency Service

Emergency medical services in the Study Area are provided by the Town of Colonie Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Calls are received by the EMS Office and the appropriate emergency response team is dispatched. Currently, area ambulance squads are staffed by both paid personnel and volunteers. Transport is provided to Ellis Hospital and St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, and St. Peter's Hospital, Albany Memorial Hospital, and Albany Medical Center.

Solid Waste Disposal

Residents and businesses in the Study Area, as well as those in the entire Town, dispose of their solid waste at the Town operated landfill located at 1319 New Loudon Road. Trash collection operates as a privately managed customer subscription program. Residents and businesses can choose from approximately 12 private waste collection companies operating within the Town. It is anticipated that future development within the Study Area would be serviced by such companies.

The Town of Colonie landfill operates under approval from NYSDEC and is undergoing expansion. The first phase of expansion is under construction and would have an anticipated life of 3.5 years. Phase 2 of the expansion is expected to begin in 1998. This area would have an estimated life of 11 years. The final phase of this expansion is scheduled to begin in 2006 and would have an estimated life of 10 years (letter dated 2/12/96 - Appendix 1).

In recognition of the environmental and economic limitations of conventional land disposal of solid waste, the Solid Waste Alternative Planning (SWAP) Committee was established by the Town in 1987. Of specific concern are the methods of reducing the volume of waste brought to the landfill. In an attempt to reduce the waste stream, a leaf composting program and a volunteer town-wide recycling program have been initiated. The Environmental Services Department, established in 1989, is responsible for the recycling program and the landfill operation. Currently, the Town operates a curbside recycling program which accepts newspaper, glass, tin cans, corrugated cardboard, and plastic containers. Other recyclable materials, including junk mail, hard covered books, waste oil, antifreeze, tires, bulk metals (appliances), batteries (household and automobile), and telephone books are accepted at the Town Residential Transfer Station. Once a year, the Town sponsors a Hazardous Waste day to collect household hazardous material from residents.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Police Protection

In order to determine the impacts that future development would have on police protection, the Town of Colonie Police Department was contacted (Heider memo faxed 3/8/96 - Appendix 1). They indicated that the increase in residential, commercial and industrial development would increase crime-based calls and traffic incidents. This would impact the Police Department by requiring additional personnel and equipment. Based upon anticipated growth under the Projected Growth Development Scenario and a current service level of 1 police officer per 701 citizens, the Town of Colonie Police Department would

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CITY OF SCHENECTADY

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

TOWN OF ROTTERDAM

VERDOY FIRE DISTRICT

STANFORD HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT

MIDWAY FIRE DISTRICT

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND

VILLAGE OF COLONIE

CITY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND

KEY

--- FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



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ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
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FIGURE NO. II-M-2 SCALE: 1" = 2000'

FIRE DISTRICTS

LISHA KILL - KINGS ROAD AREA

GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

need to hire 2-3 additional officers to maintain the current level of service in the Study Area over the 20-year planning period.

The addition of 3 officers would result in an increased expenditure to the Department of approximately \$204,000 per year. This figure represents the officer's salary and benefits. There would be some additional annual cost associated with support services. Capital costs would include a new patrol vehicle at a cost of \$25,000.

Schools

Increased residential development within a particular school district would result in an increase in students, which may impact the existing facilities. Physical space is an obvious concern since buildings are designed to accommodate a fixed number of students. Beyond the physical constraints, increased school enrollment within a district would result in decrease in the teacher to student ratio, perhaps requiring additional teachers; increased transportation demands; and may have an overall adverse effect on the school's learning environment. It is important to note that new commercial and industrial development would expand the tax base without adding school age children to a district. Residential development would also add tax revenue, however the cost of educating children generated by the residences is often greater than the revenues.

South Colonie School District

Based on the Projected Growth Development Scenario, approximately 538 new homes could be developed within the portion of the Study Area that is within the South Colonie Central School District. Using a multiplier of 0.712 (Urban Land Institute 1988), a total of 383 additional public school students are projected through the year 2015. This would result in

approximately 19 students entering the school district each year over the 20-year planning period.

Currently, the buildings serving students in the Study Area are over capacity. The Lisha Kill Middle School was built for 700 students and currently houses 900 students. Restrooms, locker rooms, and storage space have been converted to classrooms. Some students attend classes on the auditorium stage. Veeder Elementary School has an enrollment of 550 students and is over capacity. The school uses two relocatable classrooms. It is also using substandard spaces for classrooms, such as storage areas and locker rooms. Saddlewood is also at or near capacity and is using some substandard spaces. Colonie Central High School is operating at capacity with 1700 students (Brown letter dated 3/11/96 - Appendix 1).

Two capital projects were proposed by the South Colonie Board of Education in 1993 and 1994 to build 39 classrooms across the district. It was defeated in a public referendum. The Board then commissioned a citizens' advisory committee to study the problem and make recommendations to the Board. A capital project, which would add classrooms to each of the facilities serving the Study Area, will be presented to voters in 1996. The cost of the improvements is expected to be about \$10 million. If successful, existing and future enrollments can be accommodated by the district (Brown letter 3/11/96 - Appendix 1).

The addition of 383 new children would cost the District approximately \$3,145,000 per year. School tax revenue for the projected residential, commercial and industrial development occurring within the portion of the Study Area that is located within the South Colonie Central School District is approximately \$2,508,000 per year. An

additional \$866,000 in State aid is also expected. Therefore, there would be a net fiscal benefit to the District of approximately \$228,000 per year. A more detailed analysis of fiscal impact is presented in Section II.O.

Mohonasen Central School District

The Mohonasen Central School District (Paolino letter dated 3/6/96 - Appendix 1) indicated that the addition of 89 new students over the 20-year planning period will not significantly impact the District.

The addition of 89 new children would cost the District approximately \$661,000 per year. School tax revenue for the projected residential, commercial and industrial development occurring within the portion of the Study Area that is located within the Mohonasen Central School District is approximately \$1,760,000 per year. An additional \$321,000 in State aid is also expected. Therefore, there would be a net fiscal benefit to the District of approximately \$1,420,000 per year. A more detailed analysis of fiscal impact is presented in Section II.O.

Fire Protection

Each fire district servicing the Study Area was contacted to assess the impacts of projected development under the Projected Growth Development Scenario (Gordon letter dated 3/11/96, communication 3/13/96, and Tries communication 3/13/96 - Appendix 1). Each fire company reviewed the projected development within their respective district to determine if any additional equipment would be needed to maintain existing levels of service. One concern common to both districts is the availability of adequate water and pressure. This issue is discussed in Section II.G. The results of the equipment assessment are described below:

The Stanford Heights Fire District Board of Directors indicated that they have sufficient equipment to service current and future development in the Study Area. They are currently in need of a new fire station on Morris Road to replace the existing two stall garage. The existing facility is of insufficient size to fit the newer fire fighting equipment. The cost of new station is estimated at \$500,000 (Tries communication dated 3/13/96).

The Midway Fire Department indicated that their present equipment would probably not be sufficient to service the projected increase in development (Gordon letter dated 3/11/96, communication 3/13/96 - Appendix 1). They expressed concern that attempting to forecast the type and cost of new equipment would be difficult since the type and amount of new equipment would depend on the type of commercial and industrial development that occurs. Manufacturing operations would probably require the Department to purchase a hazardous materials unit at a cost of over \$300,000. Additional training would be necessary. Also, a very large warehouse or similar facility could require an extra pumper. However, based on the assumption that the type of development would be light industrial and medium size warehousing, the following needs were determined:

- 1 pumper @ \$300,000
- 1 ladder truck @ 500,000

Specialty equipment and gear would also be necessary. The cost is approximately \$1,500 per person. Currently, there are 50 volunteers. This equipment would be changed approximately 3 times over the course of the 20-year planning period due to wear. Therefore:

- $\$1,500/\text{person} \times 50 \times 3 = \underline{\$225,000}$

TOTAL COST \$1,025,000

Since the Town does not have the authority under New York State to collect funds for distribution to fire districts, the above expenditures for equipment cannot be offset by mitigation costs charged to proposed development within the Study Area.

Emergency Medical Services

Based on contact with the Town of Colonie Emergency Medical Services, there are approximately 1.5 medical emergencies per day per 10,000 people (Politis communication dated 2/28/96 - Appendix 1). During working hours (6:00 am to 6:00 pm), the work force population must be included as part of the total population within the service area. Under the Projected Growth Development scenario, there would be approximately 1,697 additional residents and 6,798 new employees by 2015. This would result in approximately one additional call per day or 365 calls per year, requiring one additional unit at a cost of \$288 per call or \$100,000-110,000 annually (Politis communication dated 2/28/96 - Appendix 1).

Solid Waste Disposal

The following solid waste generation rates were derived by the Town of Colonie Environmental Services from the Town's Solid Waste Management Plan (Bishop letters dated 2/23/96 - Appendix 1):

Residential 0.3 tons/person/annually

Retail 5.28-7.92 tons/1000 net sq.ft./annually

Industrial 1.44-2.16 tons/1000 net
sq.ft./annually

Based on these rates, residential uses would generate approximately 510 tons of solid waste, annually, by 2015. Using 30 percent and 15 percent reductions of gross floor area to obtain net floor area for commercial and industrial uses, respectively, non-residential uses in the Study Area would, on average, generate approximately 8,100 tons of solid waste, annually, by 2015. Therefore, the total additional waste generated at the end of the planning period from all sources is approximately 8,800 tons annually.

Current and future expansion of the Town landfill should provide sufficient capacity for the duration of the study period. The cost of expansion would be supported by all residents and businesses located in the Town through waste collection mitigation costs and/or taxes. Continued success of the recycling program would help to reduce the amount of waste placed in the landfill.

Another option to pay for a portion of the landfill expansion costs is to establish a mitigation cost based on the Projected Growth Development Scenario.