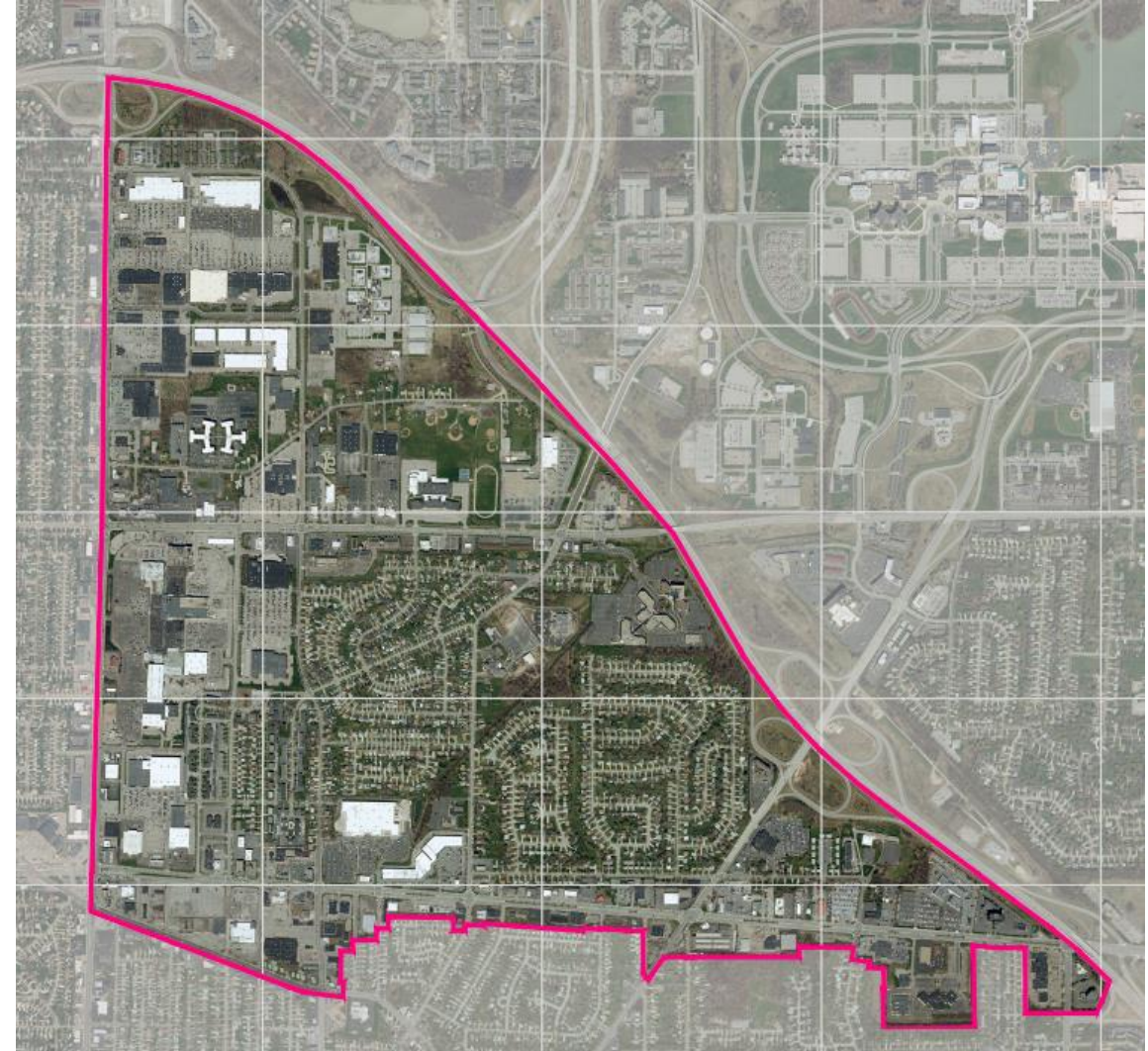


Public Scoping Meeting

Draft Scoping Document for an Generic Environmental Impact
Statement (GEIS) for the Town's Opportunity Zone

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- Purpose of this meeting – elicit public comment on the Draft Scope for development of a GEIS
- A GEIS is an environmental analysis prepared under the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process which identifies environmental impacts from future large scale projects and corresponding mitigation measures.
 - SEQR Type 1 Positive Declarations always require a GEIS.
- GEIS applies to the Town's Opportunity Zone and a few other parcels just south of Sheridan Drive in the same general area.



Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- Typically an EIS is done on a specific site or for a specific project which focuses only on the corresponding impacts to the immediately adjacent areas.
- This GEIS looks at the cumulative impacts of growth of various projects in a much larger area and how the impacts relate to one another to effect the Town and the region.
 - Future development projects must be consistent with the GEIS Findings
- To establish this GEIS, assumptions are made regarding future land uses, corresponding zoning districts, and development projections over a 20 year planning period (until 2040) – these become one of a few Redevelopment Alternatives for the Town.
 - Alternatives are analyzed and revised to create a Preferred Alternative

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- The Preferred Redevelopment Alternative is analyzed and associated cumulative impacts to community services, infrastructure, and the environment are identified.
- Mitigation measures are then identified based on the impacts and a fee schedule is developed to pay for the mitigation to avoid significant adverse impacts to the environment and the community – spreads the cost around
- The GEIS and the Preferred Redevelopment Alternative will communicate to future developers and the region the Town's comprehensive future vision for this area.

1. Alternatives/DGEIS Growth Projections



2. Impact Evaluation



3. Mitigation Evaluation



4. FGEIS & Findings



Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- **Tentative Schedule for the Scoping Document (Phase 1)**

- May 20th – Town was identified as SEQR Lead Agency, Town Board issued a positive declaration, Draft Scoping Document was released for public review
 - The Draft Scoping Document describes the scope of work and elements that will be examined as part of the GEIS
- May 20th to June 14th – Draft Scoping Document public comment period
- June 4th – Public Scoping Meeting (where we are today!)
- June 17th – Town Board adopts the Final Scoping Document, setting the scope of the GEIS

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- Town Board released the Draft Scoping Document at their meeting on May 20, 2019 for comment
 - The document can be found on the Town's website www.amherst.ny.us by using the keywords "**GEIS**" or "**opportunity zone**"
- Currently accepting comments on the Draft Scoping Document
 - Send comments to the Amherst Planning Department via mail (5583 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221) or email to bandrzejewski@amherst.ny.us
- Comment period ends on Jun 14, 2019
- Comments will be compiled and incorporated, when appropriate, into the Final Scoping Document

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- **Tentative Schedule for the Draft GEIS (Phase 2)**

- June 17th – Town Board approves proceeding with Phase 2
- Now to June 17th – Town develops growth projections and a future land use scenario for the area
- June 17th through July 19th – the consultant collects information and analyzes data, and compiles everything to form the DGEIS (explaining environmental impacts that may occur), the DGEIS is reviewed by the Town
- August – Town Board deems the DGEIS complete for public review, DGEIS is released for public comment
- September 16th – Town Board public hearing on the DGEIS

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)

- **Tentative Schedule for the Final GEIS (Phase 3)**

- September/October – consultant reviews public comments on the DGEIS, prepares the FGEIS
- November 18th – Town Board accepts the FGEIS
- December 16th – Town Board adopts the Findings Statement