

I. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Municipal Services are an important part of daily community life. In general, the lack of sufficient services can curtail development. Basic municipal services typically include local government, police and fire departments, emergency service squads, and water and sewer services. In the study area, the Town of Colonie provides a variety of municipal services, some of which have been discussed in other sections of this DGEIS (i.e. water and sewer services). The following section discusses municipal services within the study area and anticipated impacts as a result of the future development of this area. Where appropriate, mitigation measure are presented in an effort to offset impacts.

Police Protection:

The Town of Colonie Police Department is headquartered in Memorial Town Hall on Route 9. 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 regional highways within the Town.

Schools:

The entire study area falls within the North Colonie School District. Currently, the District has eight (8) schools including six (6) elementary, one (1) junior high school and one (1) senior high school. During the 1987-1988 school year, the District had an enrollment of approximately four thousand six hundred (4,600) students.

Fire Protection:

The study area is serviced by three (3) volunteer fire companies; the Boght Community Fire Company, the Latham Fire Company and the Maplewood Fire Company (Exhibit II-I-1). The Boght Fire Community, which services the largest area within the study area, has its facilities on Boght Road, just east of Route 9. The Latham Fire Company, which services the southwest and southeast portion of the study area, has its facilities on Route 9, just north of Route 2. The Maplewood Fire Company services the extreme southwestern portion of the study area and its facilities located Route 32, north of Route 7.

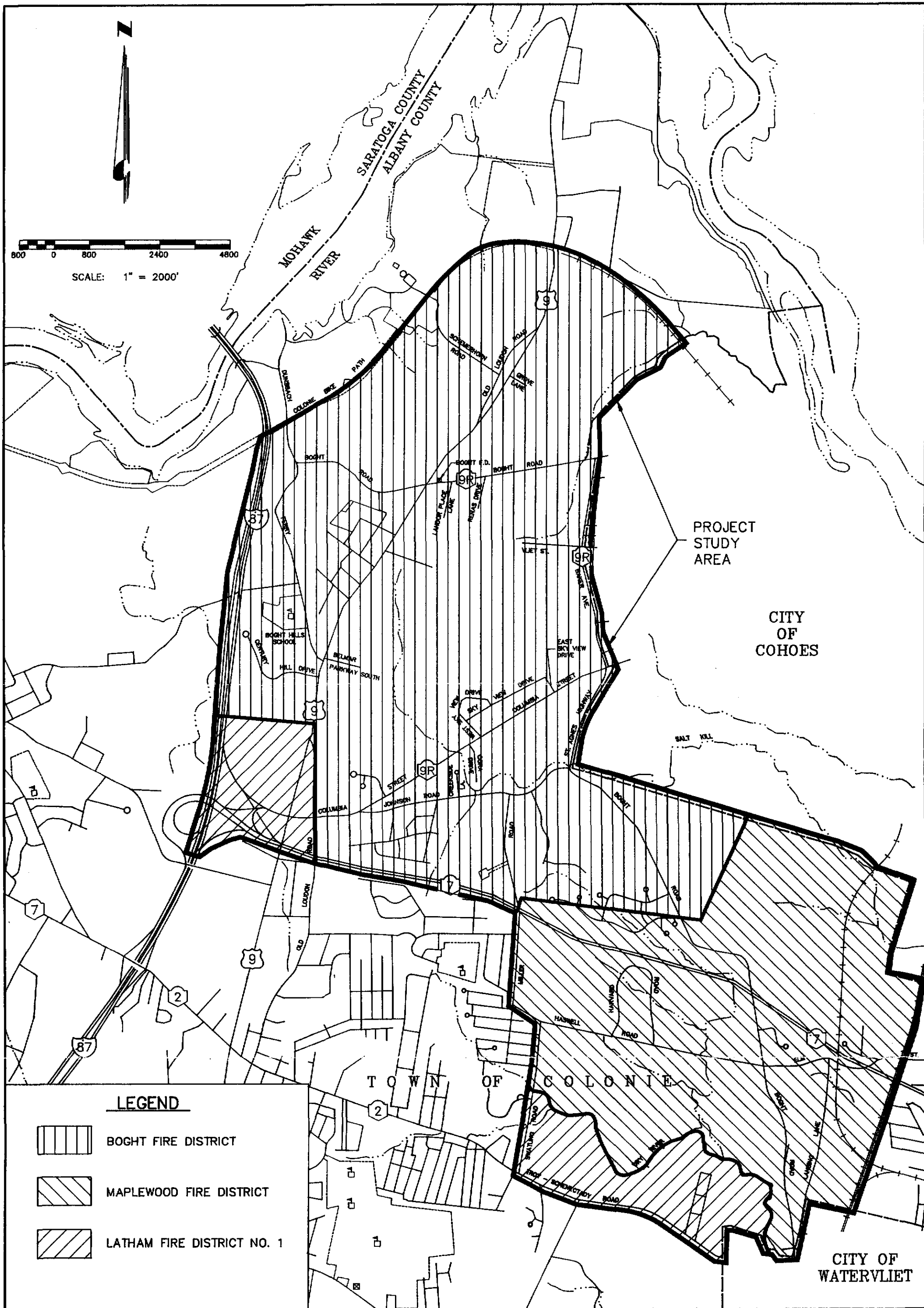
Emergency Service Squads:

Emergency service is provided by the North Colonic Volunteer Relief Squad, Inc. with headquarters located on New Loudon Road. The Volunteer Relief Squad responds to medical, fire and other emergencies.

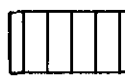
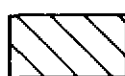

Solid Waste Disposal:

The study area as well as the entire Town of Colonic, disposes of its solid waste at the Town operated landfill located on Route 9. Trash collection is accomplished by private carting companies who bill individual property owners on a monthly or quarterly basis. It is anticipated that future development within the area will be serviced by such companies.

The landfill operates under approval from the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation and has an anticipated remaining life of approximately seven (7) years. In recognition of the environmental and economic limitations of conventional land disposal of solid waste, the Solid Waste Alternative Planning Committee (SWAP) was established by the Town in 1987. Of specific concern are ways



LEGEND

-  BOGHT FIRE DISTRICT
-  MAPLEWOOD FIRE DISTRICT
-  LATHAM FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

to reduce the volume of waste brought to the landfill. In an attempt to reduce the waste stream, a leaf composting program has been initiated and plans for a Town-wide recycling program are being formalized.

Other Municipal Services:

In addition to the above-mentioned municipal services, the Town of Colonie also provides library services at the Town library located at the intersection of Albany Shaker and Maxwell Roads, a community center located on Central Avenue in the former Colonie Village School, and a senior citizen center located at the former Goodrich School on Fiddlers Lane.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Police Protection:

In order to comprehensively determine the impacts of the future development on police protection, Mr. James W. Flater, Chief of the Colonie Police, was contacted. Based upon the anticipated growth rates, which estimate that the study area will contain three thousand eight hundred fifty (3,850) residential units in 1999 and five thousand one hundred (5,100) by the year 2009, in addition to significant commercial development along the Route 9 corridor, the Colonie Police Department would be required to hire additional personnel. Specifically, it is estimated that an additional five (5) patrol officers would be required to provide the present level of service within the study area.

The addition of five (5) patrol officers would result in an additional expenditure to the Department of seventy thousand (70,000) dollars per year per officer (1988 dollars). This figure represents the officer's salary, benefits and equipment used (i.e. patrol car). Therefore, as a result of the future development within the study area, the Town of Colonie Police Department can anticipate an

additional expenditure of two hundred sixty two thousand five hundred (262,500) dollars per year (1988 dollars) beginning during 1999 and three hundred fifty thousand (350,000) dollars per year (1988 dollars) beginning during 2009. As shown on Table II-M-1 in Section II, M, Economics, future tax revenues for the two (2) planning periods will be sufficient to offset the costs associated with the required increase in police services.

Schools:

Increased development within a particular school district will result in an increase in students which will impact the existing facilities. Physical space is an obvious concern since buildings are designed to accommodate a fixed number of students. Beyond the physical space concern, increased school enrollment within a district will result in a drop in the teacher to student ratio, increased transportation demands, and generally have a negative effect on the education process.

Based upon the projected population figures for the study area, in 1999, the North Colonie School district can anticipate an additional two thousand five hundred thirty five (2,535) school age children. The 2,009 projection is three thousand three hundred fifty eight (3,358) students.

To accurately determine the impacts to the school district and to develop a suitable mitigation plan, Charles A. Szuberla, Superintendent of North Colonie Schools was contacted and presented with the school age children population estimates. Based upon return correspondence, the School District indicates the projected figures would have a most significant impact on the District. Specifically, the 1999 projection of two thousand five hundred thirty five (2,535) additional public school children, if distributed by grade levels in proportion to current distributions, would add approximately nine hundred (900) elementary, one

hundred fifty five (155) junior high, and four hundred sixty five (465) high school students to the existing school district growth projections for that year. Since present projections indicate a school housing problem for the mid-90's, it is clear that such impact would severely exacerbate the projected problems.

At the elementary level, the proposed projections indicate the need for two (2) large (four hundred fifty (450) student) elementary schools. This is in addition to the recommendations for added elementary space currently being prepared by the Board of Education Advisory Committee on School Housing Needs. An elementary school for four hundred fifty (450) students has an approximate cost of seven (7) to eight (8) million dollars (1988 dollars). Personnel costs, to staff such facilities, would bring recurring annual costs of approximately one point five (1.5) million dollars (1988 dollars).

At the junior high school level, the additional one hundred fifty five (155) students would require at least five (5) additional classrooms, in addition to current expansion plans, and six (6) full time teachers. Costs associated with these improvements and teacher salaries bring the dollar impact at this level to one million (1,000,000) dollars (1988 dollars).

At the high school level, the projected four hundred sixty five (465) students would create a space problem and would require approximately eighteen (18) additional classrooms and at least twenty seven (27) staff. Costs associated with these required improvements are estimated at approximately three point eight (3.8) million dollars (1988 dollars).

Based upon the above-cited improvements, the total additional capital costs anticipated for the North Colonic School District in 1999 is approximately nineteen million (19,000,000) dollars (1988 dollars). In addition, annual costs

for salaries and maintenance would be approximately three point two (3.2) million dollars per year (1988 dollars) above and beyond costs currently projected for that time.

If the above referenced capital improvement costs associated with 1999 projected development (nineteen million (19,000,000) dollars) were distributed among the additional two thousand five hundred (2,500) residential units, this would equate to seven thousand six hundred (7,600) dollars per unit. As shown on Table II-M-1, Section II, M, Economics, the annual operation and maintenance for additional school space will exceed revenues generated through taxes by approximately one million three hundred eighty two thousand (1,382,000) dollars. Therefore, it appears that in order to balance this deficit, the tax rate for the entire district will have to be reevaluated in conjunction with potential increase in federal and state aid resulting from the increased number of students.

The school district does not attempt to project school enrollments beyond a ten (10) year period so figures beyond 1999 are not available. The enrollment projection of three thousand three hundred fifty eight (3,358) additional students at that time, however, would appear to require additional improvements which would have to be financed by the school district. Once the 1999 date is realized, the school district should evaluate the then present enrollment figures in relationship to future projections in order to determine specific improvements.

Fire Protection:

In an attempt to fully evaluate the impacts of the anticipated development within the study area, correspondence were sent to each fire company identifying the anticipated development. It was requested that each company

identify apparent problems so that an appropriate mitigation plan could be prepared. While formal written replies were not received from the fire companies, each fire chief was interviewed via telephone.

Each fire chief expressed basic concerns regarding the future development which included; possible need for ladder trucks for buildings over three (3) stories, need for upgrading of equipment and infrastructure (water lines for hydrants) to maintain adequate service and the ability to attract volunteers for fire fighting service.

Of all the concerns expressed by the fire companies, the one which could have the most serious implications is the need for volunteers to maintain service. In recognition of this problem, the Town held a recruitment drive in early 1988, to attract both fire and emergency squad volunteers. The use of paid fire personnel may be necessary to adequately serve a population that could reach ninety-eight thousand (98,000) by the year 2009.

Emergency Service Squads:

As the number of individuals who live and work in the project study area increases, the problem of adequate personnel and equipment to effectively respond to emergency situations will continue. The Town of Colonie, in recognition of this shortage at the Town wide level, has taken several steps to avoid this problem. Early in 1988, a recruitment drive was held to attract both fire and emergency squad volunteers. In addition, the Town has created the position of Emergency Medical Services Director. One of the duties charged to this individual is to formulate and implement a Town wide ambulance system that may incorporate some paid personnel along with volunteers.

Solid Waste Disposal:

The development of the study area at anticipated rates will result in an increase in the amount of solid waste generated from the study area. Assuming annual residential waste generation of one (1) ton per person and annual commercial/industrial solid waste generation of .18 tons per one hundred (100) square feet of building area, an additional seven thousand two hundred forty nine (7,249) tons of residential waste and approximately five thousand two hundred forty eight (5,248) tons of commercial/industrial solid waste will be generated by 1999. By 2009, in addition to the above waste, three thousand six hundred twenty five (3,625) tons of residential waste and two thousand six hundred twenty three (2,623) tons of commercial/industrial solid waste will be generated (estimates do not take into account potential reductions for recycling).

Based upon the anticipated remaining life of the landfill and the projected volumes of solid waste generated by the development within the study area, expansion of the existing facility should be considered, and waste reduction programs continued. It is estimated that, even with potential waste reduction of twenty five percent (25%), in 1999 the waste from the study area will require approximately .25 of an acre of landfill space for residential waste and .18 of an acre of landfill space for commercial/industrial solid waste. By 2009 approximately .13 of an acre of additional landfill space will be required for residential wastes and .18 of an acre of additional landfill space for commercial/industrial solid waste. Current landfill construction costs for a state of the art facility are approximately five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars per acre.

Based on the above mentioned numbers it is estimated that landfill construction costs for residential wastes equate to fifty dollars (\$50.00) per residential unit for the study period. In regard to commercial/industrial solid wastes, landfill construction costs equate to six cents (\$.06) per square foot of building area.

In order to ensure that the Development Mitigation Costs for solid waste disposal remain accurate, building trends and expenditures for this service should be monitored annually. Changes in construction costs, labor rates and equipment costs are some of the factors that result in the increase or decrease in costs associated with solid waste disposal.

Other Municipal Services:

As development takes place within the study area, increases in usage of municipal services such as the town library, community center and senior citizen center can be expected. It is difficult to assess specific impacts to these facilities, however, it is anticipated that revisions to schedules and/or increases to facility size may be required to meet the increased demand.

Revisions to program schedules or increases to facility size translate to increased financial responsibilities incurred by the Town. Facilities that are used beyond capacity generally lose efficiency and require additional maintenance.

As can be seen on Table II-M-1 in Section II, M, Economics, there will be a surplus of revenues that can be used to off-set potential improvements or program revisions to the above referenced facilities.