

M. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Municipal Services are an important part of daily community life. The Town and Village of Colonie provide 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 that portion of the Town's emergency medical services which are still volunteer, 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. Although not controlled by the municipality, the school systems are also an important part of a community's identity. The Village operates its own local government and maintains services such as garbage collection, the Village streets and water and sewer systems.

Albany County also provides services to residents and businesses within the Study Area, as it does for all residents for the County. The County maintains a number of facilities within the Study Area such as Albany County Airport, the County Jail, Ann Lee Nursing Home and the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve. A number of County roads also traverse the Study Area and these highways, as well as the Albany County Airport, are patrolled by the County Sheriff's Department.

A number of the Town, Village and County services mentioned above, such as sewer and water services and roadways have been discussed in other sections of this FGEIS. This section discusses Town and Village municipal services within the Study Area and impacts which may result under the Cumulative Growth Scenario.

1. 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 State and Interstate highways within the Town. The Albany County Sheriff's Department also provides protection to the airport and patrols the County roadways in the Study Area.

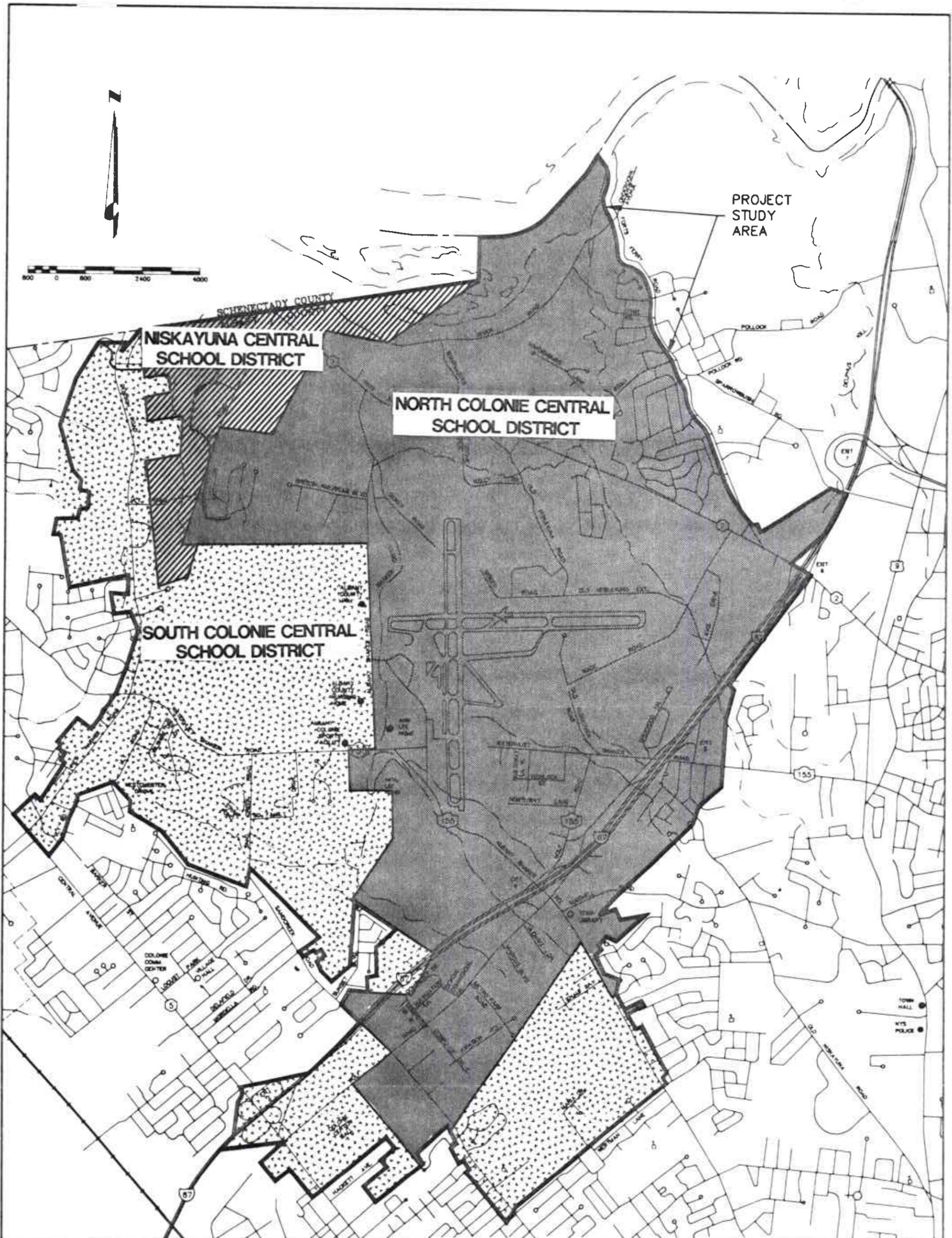
2. Schools:

Three school districts serve the Study Area: the North Colonie, South Colonie and Niskayuna School Districts. Enrollments for the 1989-1990 school years were North Colonie, 4,644 students; South Colonie, 5,226 students; and Niskayuna, 3,536 students

The Niskayuna School District serves only a small area of the Town near Route 7 and Vly Road. South Colonie serves residents of both the Town and Village while North Colonie serves only residents within the Town boundaries (Exhibit II-M-1).

3. Fire Protection:

Fire protection within the Study Area is provided by six volunteer fire companies. These include the Verdoy, Latham, Shaker Road, Fuller Road, Midway and Village of Colonie Fire Companies. District boundaries are shown on Exhibit II-M-2. The Verdoy Fire District encompasses the largest geographical area immediately west and north of the airport. The Shaker Road Fire District encompasses the airport property. Fire companies within the Town have a service area of approximately 5 square miles which keeps response time at a very acceptable level. At this time, the fire companies serving the Town and Village as well as the Study Area are well equipped to handle fire calls.

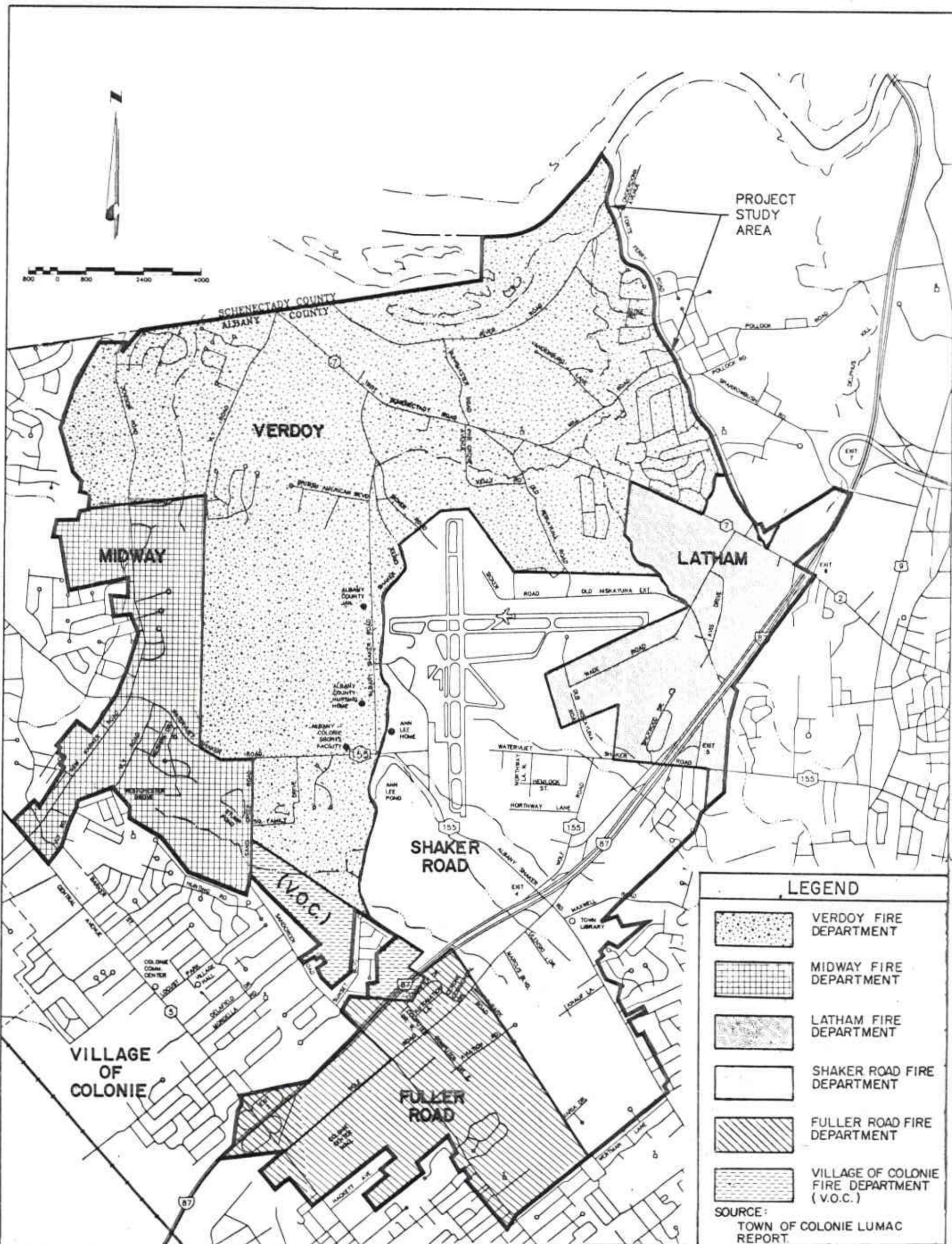


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APPROXIMATE SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

II-M-1

**AIRPORT AREA GENERIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



LEGEND	
	VERDOOY FIRE DEPARTMENT
	MIDWAY FIRE DEPARTMENT
	LATHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
	SHAKER ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT
	FULLER ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT
	VILLAGE OF COLONIE FIRE DEPARTMENT (V.O.C.)
SOURCE: TOWN OF COLONIE LUMAC REPORT.	

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FIRE DISTRICT MAP

EXHIBIT NO. II - M - 2

AIRPORT AREA GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

4. Emergency Service:

Emergency and Rescue Service in the Study Area is coordinated through the Town Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. 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.*

5. Solid Waste Disposal:

Residents and businesses in the Study Area, as well as those in the entire Town and Village of Colonie, dispose of their 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 Study Area will be serviced by such companies.

The Town of Colonie landfill operates under approval from the NYSDEC and has an anticipated remaining life of approximately 4 to 5 years at current solid waste generation rates. 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 ways to reduce 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 Village of Colonie participates in the Town leaf composting program and also operates its own volunteer recycling program.

In addition to the above, the Town formed an Environmental Services Department in 1989. This department has responsibility for the landfill operation as well as programs in the areas of recycling and other waste reduction programs.

6. Other Municipal Services:

In addition to the above-mentioned municipal services, the Town of Colonie also provides library services at the William K. Sanford 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.

Village residents have access to these services and also have access to the Village of Colonie Senior Citizen Center. Free transportation is available to this facility.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

1. Police Protection:

In order to determine the impacts that future development will have on police protection, the Town of Colonie Police Department was contacted and a meeting was conducted with Chief James W. Flater. Based upon anticipated growth under the Cumulative Growth Scenario, the Town of Colonie Police Department will need to hire additional personnel. Through the use of a formula developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Town of Colonie Police Department has estimated that an additional six patrol officers, one traffic safety investigator and one supervisory person (Sergeant level) will be required to maintain the present level of service within the Study Area.

The addition of eight officers will result in an increased expenditure to the Department of \$50,000 per year per officer. This figure represents the officer's salary, benefits, and equipment used (i.e. patrol car). Therefore, as a result of projected development within the Study Area, the Town of Colonie Police

Department can anticipate an additional expenditure of \$400,000 annually. Mitigation fees associated with these costs are outlined in Section II, O, Economics.

The police department deploys patrol officers through a zone system. There are eight zones in the Town of Colonie. One car with one officer is assigned to each zone with two additional cars and four additional men serving as a back up for the entire Town. Based on this system of deployment, the Study Area in the year 2005 under the Cumulative Growth Scenario will require the same number of additional officers as determined under the High Growth Future Development Scenario described in Section III, Alternatives.

2. Schools:

Increased residential 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 an increase in the teacher to student ratio, increased transportation demands, and generally may have a negative effect on the school's learning environment. It is important to note that new residential and commercial development serve to expand the tax base, which may or may not offset the cost to the district of accommodating the increased number of students.

a. North Colonie School District

Based on the Cumulative Growth Scenario, the North Colonie School District has projected that it can anticipate up to 347 additional public school students through the year 2005. This increase generally would not result in problems for the district. Coupled, however, with the projections developed by the school district for the Boght Road-Columbia Street Area FGEIS prepared in 1989,

serious student overcrowding could occur by the year 1999. The school district does not prepare projections beyond a 10 year period.

Current school district projections, which do not consider projections under this FGEIS or the Boght Road-Columbia Street FGEIS, indicate that 788 additional students may be expected by the year 1999. The combined Boght Road and Airport Study Area projections indicate an increased enrollment of 1,791 students or 1,003 more students than projected by the school district.

The additional students projected from the three sources listed above would require an increase in school capacity. At the elementary level, one large (450 students) elementary school at a cost of approximately \$12 million would be necessary. Personnel to staff the facility would result in an annual cost of approximately \$900,000. The School District anticipates that the location of this new school will be in the Boght Road-Columbia Street Study Area because the majority of new students will be from that portion of Town. If necessary, redistricting will occur in portions of the Airport Area to maintain a balance in school building populations and classroom sizes.

Four additional classrooms and teachers would be necessary at the junior high school. This will result in costs of approximately \$1 million for the additional staff and rooms.

Shaker High School would need to be expanded to include 10 new classrooms and the corresponding number of teachers. Costs associated with these improvements are approximately \$2.1 million.

The total costs associated with these improvements are \$16 million dollars. Growth in the Study Area would account for only a portion of the projected improvements. As a result, approximately \$3,099,949 in required improvements can be attributed to the Study Area.

The North Colonie School District also expressed concerns regarding increased traffic. Increased traffic associated with new housing and commercial development will impact the length of time necessary to complete school bus routes, especially in the Route 7, Albany-Shaker Road, and Wolf Road areas. It may be necessary to add new runs and new drivers to transport students to school efficiently and safely. This will require further study on the part of the school district as bus routes may vary from year to year based on development trends and the distribution of school age children who reside in the Study Area.

b. South Colonie School District

Based on the Cumulative Growth Scenario, the South Colonie School District has projected that up to 650 additional students could enter schools in the South Colonie School District during the 15-year planning period. This does not account for additional students from portions of the district outside Study Area boundaries.

In order to evaluate the impacts of the increased student enrollment to specific school buildings, the school district projected future enrollment by grade level and assigned students to existing school buildings. This evaluation indicates that the major impact will occur in buildings which house Kindergarten - Grade 4 and Grades 5 - 8. Enrollment in these grades has been steadily increasing and, as a result, the school district has re-opened several schools that had been closed including the Saddlewood Elementary school in the Fall of 1990. If new classrooms are needed, existing buildings will be expanded rather than entire new buildings constructed. A breakdown of projected students by attendance areas is listed below.

o Shaker Road Elementary School (K-Grade 4)	90 Students
o Sand Creek Middle School (Grade 5-Grade 8)	134 Students
o Forest Park Elementary School (K-Grade 4)	60 Students
o Saddlewood Elementary School (K-Grade 4)	137 Students
o Lisha Kill Middle School (Grade 5-Grade 8)	229 Students

Based on the existing number of available classrooms, average class size in the above listed schools will increase from one to three students per section during this period due to projected development within the Study Area. This does not account for changing demographics in other portions of the district. The Lisha Kill Middle School is currently operating at full capacity and a 10 classroom addition is under consideration. Growth resulting from within the Study Area would utilize one or two of these 10 classrooms. The cost of a 10 room addition with staffing is approximately 2.1 million dollars. If growth from the Study Area requires two classrooms then 20 percent or \$240,000 of the cost can be attributed to this growth. Additions to other buildings, especially in the western portion of the district could become necessary if growth occurs more rapidly than anticipated.

At the high school level there is currently excess capacity of approximately 300 students depending on class size and the type of programs being offered. As a result, there should be minimal expenses incurred at the high school level during this 15-year period.

c. Niskayuna School District

Student population increases in the Niskayuna School District will be approximately 65 pupils over 15 years. Multipliers developed by the CDRPC specifically for the Niskayuna District were utilized for this projection. Factors

such as home price, age of population and income level were all considered in developing these projections.

During the 15-year planning period, an average of slightly over four students per year would enter schools in the district. Based on these figures and discussions with the school district, it appears that this increase in student population would not have any significant impacts on the school district.

3. Fire Protection:

Each fire company servicing the Study Area was contacted to assess the impacts of projected development under the Cumulative Growth Scenario. Each fire company reviewed the projected development within their respective district to determine if any additional equipment and/or manpower would be needed to maintain existing levels of service. The results of this assessment are described below:

a. **Shaker Road/Loudonville Fire Department**

The Shaker Road/Loudonville Fire Department determined that the following equipment would be required:

o 1 fire engine	\$250,000
o 6 sets of turnout gear for above	8,220
o 6 self-contained breathing apparatus	9,000
o Tools, hose, nozzles, lights	<u>8,000</u>

TOTAL COST \$275,220

b. **Midway Fire District**

The Midway Fire Department determined that the following equipment would be required:

o 1 fire engine @ 50% of cost	\$125,000
o 1 ladder truck @ 50% of cost	200,000
o 20 sets of turn out gear	45,000
o Training	30,000
o EMS vehicle	10,000
o Maintenance	20,000
o Hand tools	<u>20,000</u>

TOTAL COST \$450,000

c. Village of Colonic Fire Department

The Village of Colonic Fire Department has determined that projected development in the fire district under the Cumulative Growth Scenario will not impact the department's ability to respond to fire emergencies. The addition of 259 residential units over a 15 year period equates to construction of approximately 17 new homes annually. As a result, the department will not require any additional equipment or manpower to accommodate project development.

d. Verdoy, Latham and Fuller Road Fire Departments

None of these fire departments indicated that additional manpower or equipment would be required to maintain existing levels of fire protection. Therefore, each of the three departments should have the ability to respond to fire emergencies through the year 2005.

4. Emergency Medical Services:

Standards for emergency medical service calls indicate that for every population increase of 10,000 persons, an additional two emergency calls in a 24 hour period are received. During working hours (6:00 am to 6:00 pm), the work force population must also be considered. Under the Cumulative Growth Scenario, the resident population in the Study Area will increase by 4,068 persons. However, a daily influx of 28,600 new employees will work in the Study Area in the year 2005 under this same scenario. Based on this information, an increase of 3.3 emergency service calls in a 24 hour period can be expected. However, the large influx of people during daytime hours will probably result in nearly three additional calls during the 6:00 am to 6:00 pm time period and up to one additional call during evening hours.

This concentration of calls during the work day will have several impacts on emergency medical services. During the hours of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm,

approximately 90 percent of the staff are paid personnel. Due to anticipated growth it may be necessary to increase the number of paid staff to 100 percent, which will result in higher unit hour costs. It costs the Town of Colonie approximately \$22 per unit hour to put an emergency unit, staffed by volunteers, in service. This figure includes personnel, vehicle, maintenance and supplies. The average service call is one hour in length and 66 percent of all emergency calls in the area occur in the daytime.

The average cost of placing a new unit in service, staffed by paid personnel, 24 hours a day, costs approximately \$525,600 annually in 1990 dollars. The Town of Colonie Emergency Medical Services Department determined that, due to the anticipated increased number of calls during the day, it would be necessary to add a paid unit during the day at a cost of \$60 per unit hour and a volunteer unit during the night at \$22 per unit hour. As a result the combined cost per unit hour would be \$41 per unit hour or approximately \$360,000 annually based on 1990 dollars. These cost estimates will vary based on the number of volunteers that staff the various emergency squads.

5. Solid Waste Disposal:

The NYSDEC estimates that solid waste generated from residential development is approximately 1 ton per capita, annually. Thus, in 2005, approximately 4,068 additional tons of solid waste would be produced annually. Solid waste generation rates from non-residential sources were obtained from Environmental Engineering and Sanitation by Joseph A. Salvatore, P.E. The following generation rates were used:

- o Office, .18 tons/100 sq.ft./annually;
- o Retail, .23 tons/100 sq.ft./annually; and
- o Industrial/Manufacturing/
Warehouse, .36 tons/100 sq.ft./annually.

Non residential uses in the Study Area will generate approximately 17,212 tons annually of solid waste in 2005. Therefore, the total additional waste generated at the end of the planning period from all sources is approximately 21,280 tons annually.

The life of the landfill cell currently in use has been estimated by the Environmental Services Department at 4 to 5 years if no recycling or other waste reduction programs are put into place. This estimate is based on existing conditions within the Town and it does not consider any additional solid waste which may be generated by future development as projected under the Cumulative Growth Scenario. Based on discussions with the Town Environmental Services Department, the extent in which the life of the landfill would be shortened as a result of future development cannot be accurately predicted. This determination is due to two factors.

First, the timing and level of development that may occur in the Town during the life of the current landfill cell has not been accurately determined. In addition, a variety of waste reduction programs are currently in place or are being developed in order to reduce the volume of solid waste disposed of at the landfill and extend the life of the current cell.

Currently, separation of yard wastes is mandatory in the Town and Village. The composting of yard wastes has resulted in a five to six percent reduction in the waste stream. A voluntary drop-off recycling program is also in place which has resulted in an approximate three percent reduction in the waste stream. Voluntary recycling efforts have reduced the waste stream from approximately 11,000 to 8,000 tons per month. This is expected to continue to decrease as recycling becomes more prevalent.

By the end of 1990, mandatory curbside recycling and voluntary commercial recycling programs will have been instituted. The Town will not charge a tipping fee at the landfill for the recyclable portion of the waste stream if it has been properly separated. Due to increasing waste disposal costs this should provide an economic incentive for commercial waste generators to separate wastes. The Town expects to institute mandatory separation of commercial wastes sometime in the near future.

The Environmental Services Department is always aware of potential markets for recyclable goods. As landfill space continues to decrease, it will become more economical to recycle a growing number of materials and additional markets should become available. Through these programs the Town has established a goal of a 40 to 50 percent recycling rate by 1998. This may extend the life of the existing landfill cell to the year 2000.

The Town of Colonic owns land adjacent to the existing landfill and officials are exploring the possibility of extending landfill operations to this site. When a new landfill cell is developed, all residents and businesses located in the Town will support the cost of developing and operating this facility through increased waste collection fees and/or property taxes.

In conclusion, future development trends and the success of the Town's waste reduction and recycling efforts are the factors which will impact the life of the current landfill cell. Because these factors cannot be accurately predicted, mitigation costs have not been calculated for solid waste disposal.