

**State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

Lead Agency: Allegany-Limestone Central School District

Dated: December 17, 2019

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law. A review of the proposed Allegany-Limestone Central School District Capital Improvements Project, 2020 has been undertaken, and it has been determined that the action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action:

Allegany-Limestone Central School District Capital Improvements Project, 2020

Location of Action:

Allegany-Limestone Elementary School
120 Maple Avenue
Allegany, New York 14706

Allegany-Limestone Central School District Bus Garage
104 Maple Avenue
Allegany, New York 14706

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Description of Action:

The Allegany-Limestone Central School District (the "District") proposes a Capital Improvements Project, 2020 which includes various renovations to the existing Allegany-Limestone Elementary School and Bus Garage and site work at these locations.

Proposed improvements at the Elementary School include renovations to the multipurpose room and gymnasium including new audio/visual and public address systems, new seating system in multipurpose room and new drop curtain and rock wall in the gymnasium; locker room / gymnasium office area; new STEAM makerspace; kitchen renovations including new stove and serving line and HVAC upgrades; restrooms; and library carpet and painting.

Other proposed Elementary School building upgrades include LED lighting; corridor finishes and display cabinets; classroom flooring; and HVAC improvements, such as boiler room upgrades including new boilers, valves, electrical, gas piping, and venting; upgraded heating and cooling of classrooms; kitchen ventilation and cooling upgrades; and heating upgrades at the nurse's office. Additional upgrades may include plumbing items such as backflow prevention and domestic water and heating isolation valves; electrical upgrades to support renovations; and possibly roof upgrades. Upgrades at the Bus Garage may include new bus lifts, trench drain, oil separator, windows in bus maintenance area, and possibly LED lighting.

Proposed site work upgrades at the Elementary School campus include a new synthetic playground surface with new curb, ramp, and handrails, and reconstruction of deteriorated sidewalks with radiant heat at the front and west entrances. Alternate site work at the Elementary School may include upgrading the courtyard to accommodate educational programming use. These possible courtyard upgrades could include new concrete surfaces / seating, synthetic rubber surface, landscaping, and canopy structures. Other alternative site work may include a solar panel array on land near the Bus Garage.

If the budget allows after receiving construction bids or if other items are identified, similar additional renovations, upgrades, and improvements including minimal areas of site work could be undertaken.

Reasons Supporting this Determination:

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project were identified in the Environmental Assessment Form to assess potential adverse environmental impacts and compared to the criteria for determining significance identified in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c)(1) and in accordance with 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c)(2) and (3). As indicated below in the discussion of each criterion specified in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c)(1), the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

(i) a substantial adverse change in existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels; a substantial increase in solid waste production; a substantial increase in potential for erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage problems;

The proposed project's building improvements and limited site work will not create significant impacts to the above criteria. Proposed sidewalk and playground surface reconstruction will be located on approximately one-third acre of already developed land. Possible courtyard improvements would disturb approximately one-half acre within a landscaped area partially surrounded by the Elementary School building. Possible installation of a solar panel array near the Bus Garage also would be located on previously disturbed land and would involve minimal areas of disturbance for possible concrete pad(s) for equipment and support posts for panels. The proposed site work will not create a substantial adverse impact to any of the above criteria.

As described above, areas of land disturbance will be limited. During construction, erosion and sediment controls in accordance with appropriate storm water management design standards including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC") Storm Water Management Design Manual will be utilized if necessary. It is anticipated that the total area of land disturbance at each site will be less than one acre, and therefore it is anticipated that the NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activity ("Storm Water General Permit") and development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP"), will not be required (although they will be complied with if areas of disturbance unexpectedly meet the acreage threshold). Existing storm water management features will continue to be utilized. Limited volumes of subsoils and topsoil which may be excavated will be reused on-site or removed off-site as necessary. If the depth to water table at any of the site work locations were found to be shallow, dewatering methods and erosion and sediment control best management practices would be employed, as necessary.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") Flood Insurance Rate Maps, there are no mapped floodplains or floodways present. According to the NYSDEC EAF Mapper, the sites are located over an aquifer. The limited areas of site work will not alter or encroach into any wetlands or waterbodies, and the proposed improvements will not create a substantial adverse change in existing ground (including the aquifer) or surface water quality or quantity and will not increase the potential for erosion, leaching, drainage or flooding problems on or adjacent to the sites.

The proposed project will not create a substantial adverse change in existing air quality, noise or odor levels, or traffic during construction. Impacts from construction will be minimal and temporary, consistent with typical site work and building upgrade activities including temporary traffic associated with construction workers and equipment and removal of construction and demolition debris, including pavement removed as part of the pavement reconstruction. Dust-suppression techniques including wetting ground surfaces and equipment as necessary, and other measures such as emission controls on construction equipment and work hour limits, will be employed. Work will be undertaken at various areas of the sites at various times taking into account school schedules and construction efficiencies. Construction equipment/vehicles will be used for limited periods. There will not be a substantial impact due to the duration of construction activities. Construction and demolition debris will be reused, recycled or disposed appropriately off-site, and hazardous materials such as asbestos-containing materials will be removed and managed in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. There will be no significant adverse impacts.

Student and staff populations at the site will not change as a result of the project. Accordingly, refuse and sanitary waste generation, water usage, and noise and traffic levels during operations at the existing Elementary School campus and Bus Garage will not change significantly. There will not be a substantial adverse change in existing air quality, noise or odor levels, refuse or sanitary waste generation, water usage, or traffic after construction is completed. Reconstructed sidewalks with radiant heat at the school entrances will improve pedestrian conditions. There will not be a significant adverse impact.

(ii) the removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna; substantial interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; impacts on a significant habitat area; substantial adverse impacts on a threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of such a species; or other significant adverse impacts to natural resources;

The Elementary School and Bus Garage sites are developed sites. Reconstruction of existing sidewalks and playground surface will have no impact on the above criteria. If courtyard upgrades were undertaken, only a small lawn / landscape area would be disturbed, with improvements including upgraded landscaping as well as impervious surfaces to promote use of the space for educational programming. If a solar panel array were to be installed near the Bus Garage, only minimal areas of concrete pad(s) for equipment would be constructed and posts to support the panels would have minor impacts on the existing lawn area where the array would be installed. Undeveloped land will not be disturbed, and the proposed project will not result in the removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation, including forest or grassland, on the already developed site. There will not have a significant adverse impact on any of the above resources.

According to the NYSDEC EAF Mapper, the sites are in the vicinity of threatened or endangered animals ("Wavyrayed Lampmussel, Longhead Darter, Bluebreast Darter, Rayed Bean"). Also, according to the NYSDEC Environmental Resource Mapper, the sites are in the vicinity of fish and mussels listed as threatened or endangered. However, the only species specifically identified by the NYSDEC are aquatic species associated with the Allegheny River and Five Mile Creek which are approximately 1/2 mile from the sites, and proposed site work will be completed in already developed portions of the sites. The project will not remove or destroy large quantities of fauna or substantially interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. The project will not have a substantial adverse impact on a threatened or endangered species of animals or plants, impact a significant habitat area, or have other significant adverse impacts to natural resources.

(iii) the impairment of the environmental characteristics of a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to subdivision 617.14(g) of this Part;

The sites are not within or adjacent to a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.14(g), and the action will not impair the environmental characteristics of a Critical Environmental Area.

(iv) the creation of a material conflict with a community's current plans or goals as officially approved or adopted;

The proposed project to maintain and upgrade the existing Elementary School and Bus Garage will not create a conflict with the community's current plans or goals as officially approved or adopted. The proposed capital improvements will help the District to continue to serve the community and will not have significant impacts to the community or community services.

(v) the impairment of the character or quality of important historical, archeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources or of existing community or neighborhood character;

The proposed project will improve and maintain the Elementary School and Bus Garage buildings and related sites. According to the NYSDEC EAF Mapper for both sites, the sites contain or are substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places (the "Registers"), or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office or "SHPO") to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places. However, SHPO's Cultural Resource Information System ("CRIS") database indicates both sites are not located substantially contiguous to a listed or historic site or district or one that has been identified as being "eligible" for listing in the Registers. Also, according to the DEC EAF Mapper and CRIS, portions of both sites are located within an area identified as being archeologically sensitive.

For a recent capital project in 2017 involving the Elementary School building and site work, SHPO reviewed information and determined that the Elementary School is "not eligible" for listing in the Registers. SHPO also determined that that project, which included more site work than what is proposed by this project, would have no impact on either historic or archaeological resources.

Much of the proposed work is exempt from SHPO review due to the nature of the work items as identified in the Memorandum of Understanding between SHPO and the State Education Department. However, in keeping with common practice, project information on site work was submitted to SHPO for its review (information on Elementary School and Bus Garage building work was not submitted given the Elementary School's "not eligible" status and the Bus Garage's relatively recent construction). Given SHPO's prior review and determination that the Elementary School site and building are "not eligible" for listing in the Registers and that a recent project at this building and site would have no impact; the location of the Bus Garage's site work near the Elementary School site, no or limited proposed land disturbance at the Bus Garage site, and the relatively young age of the Bus Garage (constructed approximately 20 years ago); and the continued consultation with SHPO, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on historical, archaeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources.

The proposed capital improvements will enhance the Elementary School and Bus Garage and be consistent with the District's mission to continue to serve the local community. If a solar panel array were to be installed near the Bus Garage, it would be located in the rear of the property behind the Bus Garage and would be of limited visibility. The proposed project will not create a significant adverse impact on community or neighborhood character.

(vi) a major change in the use of either the quantity or type of energy;

The proposed project will maintain and upgrade the existing Elementary School and Bus Garage and does involve building additions. During construction, energy use typical of limited site work and building upgrades will be expended. New LED lighting and other electrical and

HVAC improvements will be undertaken in accordance with modern energy codes, and more energy-efficient materials and equipment will be utilized. There will not be a major change in the quantity of fuel or energy to be used by the District, and the project will not affect the community's sources of fuel or energy supply.

(vii) the creation of a hazard to human health;

The proposed project will maintain and upgrade existing District facilities and will not create a hazard to human health. The proposed project includes upgrades to promote health, safety, and accessibility including items such as reconstruction of deteriorated sidewalks and installation of radiant heat at the sidewalks at the Elementary School's front and west entrances, new HVAC equipment to improve ventilation and heating/cooling conditions, a new playground surface, and new ramp and handrails at the playground. Hazardous materials such as asbestos-containing or other hazardous materials encountered during renovations will be handled and disposed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

(viii) a substantial change in the use, or intensity of use, of land including agricultural, open space or recreational resources, or in its capacity to support existing uses;

The Elementary School and Bus Garage will be maintained and upgraded, and the proposed project will not substantially change the use or substantially increase the intensity of land use at the existing District sites. The sites are not within an agricultural district, and the proposed project will not impact agricultural land or open space resources, or constitute a substantial change in the capacity to support the existing District uses. Elementary School recreational resources will be enhanced with gymnasium, locker room, and playground upgrades.

(ix) the encouraging or attracting of a large number of people to a place or places for more than a few days, compared to the number of people who would come to such place absent the action;

The proposed project will maintain the existing Elementary School and Bus Garage. Construction activity, including the presence of construction workers, will be temporary. The project will not increase student or staff populations or encourage or attract a large number of people to come to the existing sites. There will not be significant adverse impacts.

(x) the creation of a material demand for other actions that would result in one of the above consequences;

The proposed capital project will upgrade existing District facilities and sites and will not create a material demand for other actions that will result in one of the above consequences.

(xi) changes in two or more elements of the environment, no one of which has a significant impact on the environment, but when considered together result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment; or

The proposed project will not result in changes in two or more elements of the environment which, when considered together, would result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment.

(xii) two or more related actions undertaken, funded or approved by an agency, none of which has or would have a significant impact on the environment, but when considered cumulatively would meet one or more of the criteria in this subdivision.

All of the elements of the proposed project have been reviewed together. The project does not meet any of the above criteria, and there will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment.

For Further Information:

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