



September 16, 2019

Honorable Supervisor Peter G. Barber
Town of Guilderland
P.O. Box 339
5209 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, NY 12084

Christopher G. Desany
Vice President of
Planning and Infrastructure
Capital District Transportation Authority
110 Watervliet Avenue
Albany, New York 12206
Phone: 518.437.8320
Mobile: 518.229.7938

SUBJECT: Rapp Road Residential Development

Dear Supervisor Barber,

CDTA has reviewed the plans for the proposed Rapp Road Residential Development with great interest. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this development as the SEQR approval process moves forward.

The proposed development site lies just outside a typical walking distance from CDTA Route #10, which connects the area to Stuyvesant Plaza, the University at Albany, the College of St. Rose, and Downtown Albany via Western Avenue. The westbound (Crossgates-bound) stop is located approximately one-quarter mile from the development site, while the eastbound (Downtown-Albany-bound) stop is located over one-third of a mile away and requires crossing Western Avenue.

As this development is also proposed within the Town of Guilderland's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) District, CDTA is writing to request guidance on what types of design elements the Town seeks to add to or remove from the proposal, to bring it in line with the TOD zoning ordinance and national TOD best practices. This information will inform CDTA's comments on the applicant's forthcoming SEQR scoping document.

CDTA has initiated conversations with the applicant to discuss how we can best serve the development, and to discuss potential measures the applicant could take to encourage residents to use alternative modes of transportation. Such measures include entering into a Universal Access agreement with CDTA to provide tenants with free access to public transit, and installing new bus stops closer to the development near Crossgates Mall Road and Rapp Road, to allow improved access to our transit service.

Before moving forward with these discussions and our comments, we would like to determine the Town's desires for the development, so they are in line with CDTA's own recommendations.

We recommend that Town Planning staff contact CDTA Planning staff at your earliest convenience, to provide the requested guidance and coordinate our plans for this development.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Desany
Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure

CC: Ross Farrell, Director of Planning, CDTA
Kenneth Kovalchik, Town of Guilderland
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland

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