

MARIA

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Maria College District Plan Application Community Meeting

Date Held: Thursday May 2, 2019

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Place: Maria College, Marian Hall, Fitzgerald Court
714 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome by President Gamble
- Project Introduction and Goals by Joel Nudi
- Questions and Answers/Discussion
 - Joel Nudi, Casey Crossley, Lisa McCorkell and Willie Bruce

Dr. Gamble introduced the project and noted that this work will in no way change the character or nature of Maria College. He noted that safety for our students, employees and visitors was a key concern. He noted that the work will improve the beauty of the campus and the neighborhood, improve access for those with disabilities, and provide a stronger sense of identify for Maria College.

Mr. Nudi then showed the attached presentation to the assembled neighborhood residents. Questions that were raised during the presentation were addressed by Mr. Nudi, Mr. Crossley, Ms. McCorkell, and Mr. Bruce. Following is a summary of these issues regarding the District Plan, along with the responses to those concerns and how they will be incorporated into the District Plan

Summary of issues raised regarding the District Plan

Traffic

- Several residents expressed difficulties with traffic on New Scotland Avenue, getting into and out of their driveways.
 - It was clarified that the proposed improvements did not increase the amount of traffic coming to the college and the reduction of the existing 3 entries into one was viewed as an improvement and simplification of the car movements into and out of the campus. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- The overall area traffic study being conducted by the City was discussed.
 - Residents who were not already participating in the public meetings for the City study were given contact information to receive information. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.

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- While not a part of the current application, the idea of installing a traffic signal at the new College entrance was discussed. Some residents were in favor of a signal while others thought it would cause traffic backup compounding their driveway access issues.
 - New crosswalks with actuated traffic lights were discussed, and it was explained that while we believe these would be beneficial, provision of this is beyond the scope of the current application. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- The audience asked whether they could view the application materials, including the traffic study.
 - LA Group to inquire from City if submission materials are available for view. The College also offered to post plans and studies on their website. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.

Historic

- There were several questions about the historic significance of the campus.
 - In response it was clarified that the historic listing of Marian Hall is a City designation, not a State or Federal listing and encompasses only the building, not the adjacent brick wall. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
 - The College confirmed that no changes are planned for the bell tower at Marian Hall and specifically noted that it is a symbolic icon of Maria College. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- There were some concerns raised regarding the removal of the tall brick wall along New Scotland Avenue to allow for construction of the new entry.
 - In response, it was noted that the new entry feature walls and signage will reflect the character and materials of the existing walls. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
 - It was also confirmed that the existing wall to the west and to the south of Marian Hall are to remain. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.

Construction Activities

- A resident asked if this construction will include blasting and concerns with impact on the older houses in the neighborhood.
 - No blasting is anticipated during construction. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- The presentation illustrated the phasing of the project, with Phase 1 including the area to the west and south of Marian Hall and Phase 2 including the new green quad/central area and area south of Main Building.
 - There were no comments, and thus there will be no effect on the District Plan as submitted.

Misc.

- Concerns and questions regarding potential plans for a dorm were raised.

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- The College confirmed this application does not include on campus housing and there are no plans to change from being a commuter campus. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- In response to questions on landscaping, the presentation confirmed the plans include landscaping along New Scotland Avenue as well as across the entire campus.
 - The College reiterated the goal of the plan is to improve the appearance of the campus and present a genuine 'college campus' feel along New Scotland Avenue. This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- The College noted that site & building accessibility is an important part of the project, and this initiative was well received.
 - This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.
- The College offered to continue to participate with the neighbors and the City in the area wide traffic study for New Scotland Avenue.
 - This will have no effect on the District Plan as submitted.