

August 21, 2015

I submit the following comments on the draft Scoping Document for the redevelopment of the Hudson River State Hospital (HRSB) site:

- The draft Scoping Document is in PDF form, but the PDF is not searchable electronically. All future documents relating to this project should be in a form that is searchable electronically. Such an ability will limit questions or comments that are already addressed in the documents. I therefore apologize if any of my comments are already included in the draft Scoping Document.
- There are several large, old sycamore trees currently lining Hudson View Drive. The current concept plan appears to show that Hudson View Drive's current alignment will remain intact in the area of these trees. The DEIS (and therefore the Scoping Document) should include an analysis of the feasibility of retaining these trees. Such an analysis would define their removal as the direct cutting of the trees, the pruning of the trees enough that they may not survive, and the removal of root structure that would not allow the trees to survive.
- I request the inclusion of a discussion on the feasibility of a self-guided walking tour being available for the site following redevelopment. Such a tour would include plaques or panels describing the historic use of the site in various areas, including historic photographs and documents.
- I request the inclusion of an analysis of the need for the amount of proposed commercial space. It would be very unfortunate to have space be constructed, only to be underutilized.
- I request that the document describe any possible assurances that once demolition has begun, the project will be completed. It would be very unfortunate to have historic structures demolished, have the project go unfinished, and the next developer be willing to keep structures including ones that are now demolished.
- The Alternatives section should the reuse of additional structures not already considered as part of the current concept plan. Specifically, SHPO has already submitted a list of structures that it believes should be preserved, so special consideration should be made to an alternative that preserves some or all of those structures.
- The appendices must include a copy of the structural report completed for all of the buildings.
- I request the inclusion of commitments, if possible in this document, to the securing of the Administration building and its wings, so that they may be preserved until that section of the property is undergoing redevelopment.

Thank you for reading these comments and incorporating them into the revised Scoping Document and future DEIS.