

UConn New School of Nursing Building

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Public Scoping Meeting
Wednesday, August 30th

Presenters



Marcy Miller, FHI Studio, Community Engagement Manager



Stephanie Dyer-Carroll, FHI Studio, Planning Studio Director

Agenda

- Meeting Purpose and Format
- CEPA Process
- New School of Nursing Building
- Environmental Considerations
- Next Steps
- Comments

Meeting Purpose and Format

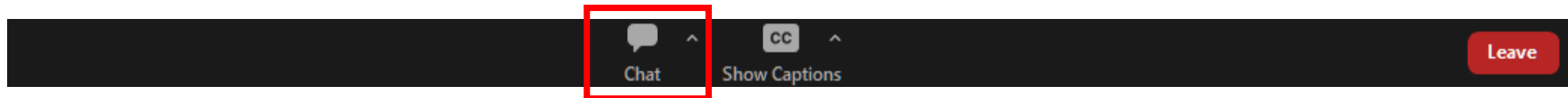


Meeting Purpose

- Provide an **overview of CEPA**
- To **inform you of UConn's plans** for a new School of Nursing Building
- To **provide information relative to the environmental review process** and overall project schedule
- To **understand topics of public interest** and concern
- To **receive comments on the action**

Meeting Format

- Presentation
- Comments can be submitted anytime via Chat window
 - Please provide name, address and comment
- Comments read aloud by panelists following presentation



- Technical support questions can be asked via Chat window

CEPA Process

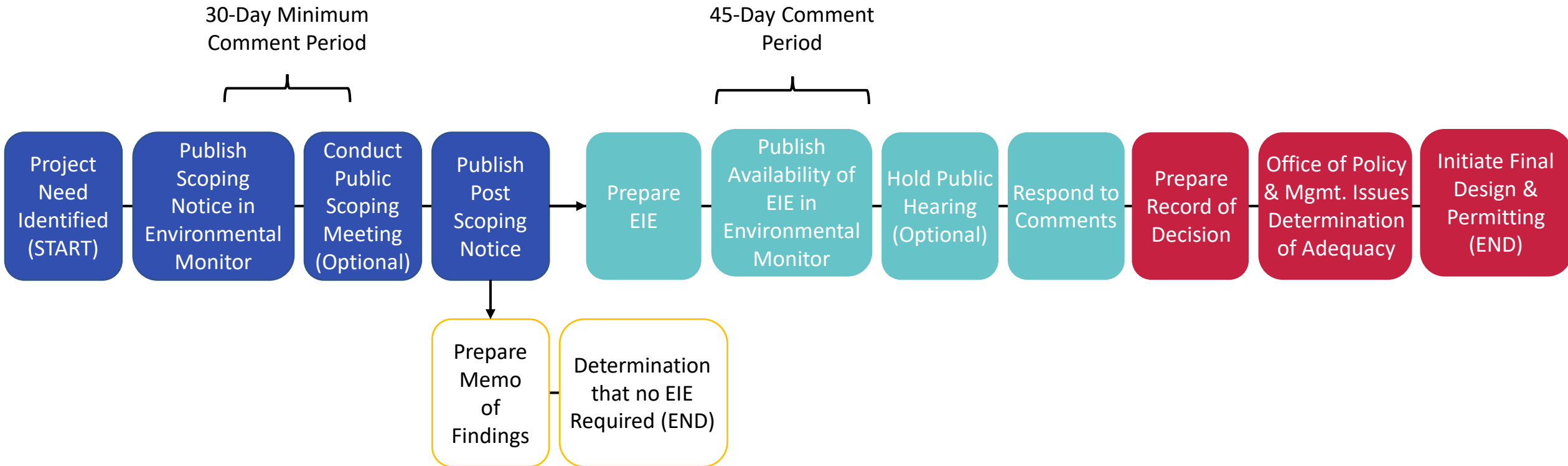


What is CEPA?

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act

- Sections 22a-1 through 22a-1h of the Connecticut General Statutes
- Defines process for evaluating environmental impacts of state-funded actions
- Enables the State agencies to judge appropriateness of proceeding with action in light of environmental impacts
- Provides opportunity for public review and comment through early public scoping process, as well as later review of any Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE), if necessary

CEPA Process



Purpose and Need

Purpose: To accommodate increased enrollment for the School of Nursing that in turn will help address the shortage of nurses, the changing nature of healthcare, and the increasing disparity in health outcomes regionally and nationally.

Need: Storrs Hall cannot fulfill that purpose or adequately satisfy future requirements in terms of size and spatial configuration. The new School of Nursing building would support new teaching modes by educating nurses through patient-centered practice, interdisciplinary research, and technology-based innovations.

Proposed Project Alternatives

No Build *(required under CEPA)*

Maintain School of Nursing on the north side of campus in Storrs Hall. Wouldn't meet School of Nursing's mission.

Build

Construct a new School of Nursing building that meets the future requirements of UConn's School of Nursing.

New School of Nursing Building



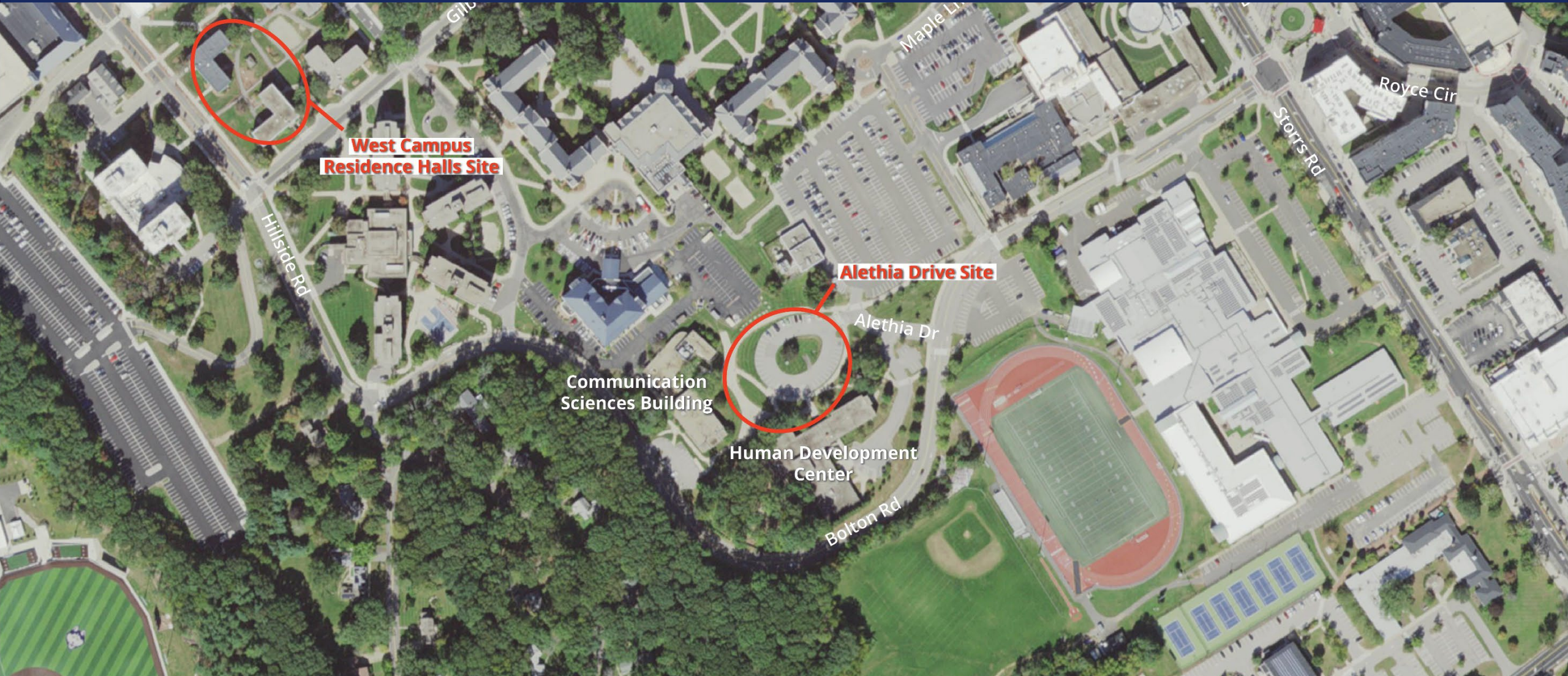
Project Elements

Up to a 4-story building, approximately 70,000-80,000 gross square feet, which would accommodate:

- Instructional spaces, including a lecture hall and classrooms
- A Simulation Lab Suite
- A Human Behavioral Research Lab
- A Wet Lab
- A Student Academic Center
- Offices and support spaces

Accessible parking and drop-off areas would also be provided on-site, as well as usable open space around the building.

Alternative Sites Considered



Project Site Criteria

Alethia Drive site was identified because:

- Adjacent to Human Development Center and Communications Sciences building
- Takes advantage of existing infrastructure on South Campus
- Not displacing pervious open space and trees on campus
- Access to surface permit parking
- Site available for immediate development



Identified Site



Environmental Considerations



Resource Considerations Under CEPA

- Water quality, including surface water and groundwater
- Public water supply systems
- Flooding, in-stream flows, erosion and sedimentation
- Historic, archaeological or cultural resources
- Recreational resources
- Natural communities, and critical plant and animal species and their habitat
- Migratory fish or wildlife species
- Hazardous materials
- Aesthetic and visual resources

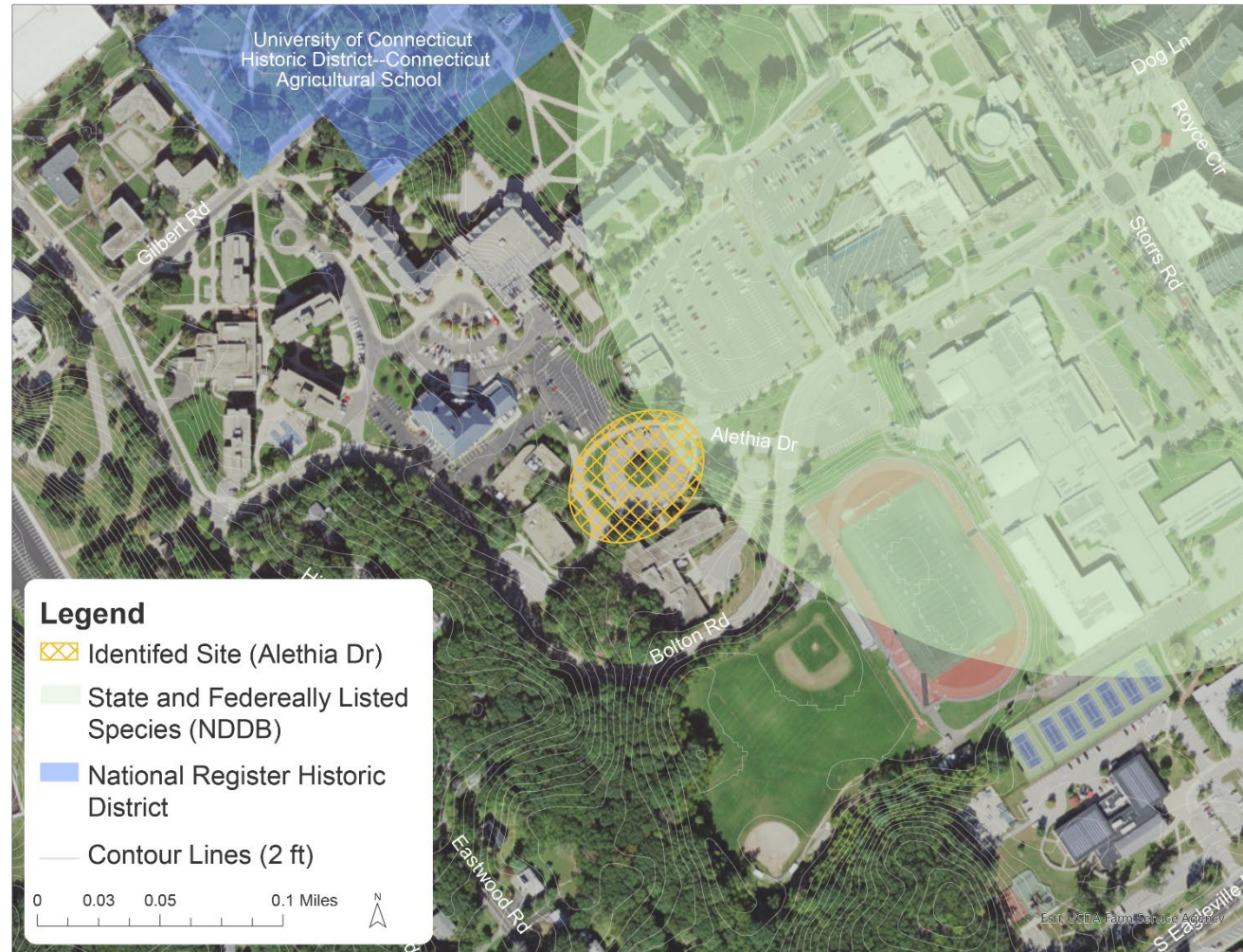
- Consistency with state, regional and municipal land use plans
- Housing, population and communities
- Traffic and transportation
- Energy use
- Human health and safety
- Air quality
- Noise
- Land resources, including coastal and inland wetlands
- Agricultural resources
- Utilities and infrastructure
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate change

Resources Not Present in the Project Area

- No FEMA floodzones
- No tidal wetlands/coastal resources
- No poorly drained or very poorly drained soils
- No critical habitat
- No farmland soils
- No sole source aquifers



Existing Environment



Resources/Issues for Consideration

- Traffic and transportation
- Parking
- State and federally-listed species (NDDDB)
- Stormwater management
- Construction-period impacts



Next Steps



Project Schedule

- August 8, 2023: Notice in Environmental Monitor
- August 30, 2023: Public Scoping Meeting
- September 8, 2023: Close of Public Comment Period
- Fall 2023: Initiate design
- Fall 2023: Determine if EIE to be prepared and issue Post Scoping Notice
- Spring 2024: Conclude CEPA (if preparing EIE)
- Fall 2024: Planned Construction Start

How to Comment?

- Tonight via chat:
Please provide your **name, address and comment**
- In writing:
Antoaneta Fedeles, AIA, PMP, LEED AP
3 Discovery Drive, U-6038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-6038
antoaneta.fedeles@uconn.edu
- Comment period closes 5:00 PM EST on: **Friday, September 8, 2023**
- Link to meeting recording will be posted at
<https://updc.uconn.edu/nursing> by September 1, 2023
- Comments received will be addressed in Post Scoping Notice

Thank You

