

3.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The site of the proposed school is located in Forest Hills in the southwestern portion of Queens Community District #6. *Selected Facilities and Program Sites in New York City 2002-2005* from the NYC Department of City Planning was used as the primary source for this information. The Queens Office of the NYC Department of City Planning and Community Board #6 were contacted to identify developments planned for completion by the school's build year of 2010 (see **Section 3.1, Land Use and Zoning**).

3.2.1 Existing Conditions

3.2.1.1 Police Services

The 112th Precinct serves Community District #6. Its headquarters are located at 68-40 Austin Street, northeast of the project site.

3.2.1.2 Fire Services

Within Community District #6, the Fire Department maintains Engine 305 Ladder 151 Company at 111-02 Queens Boulevard, approximately one-and-a-half miles northeast of the project site. In addition, the Fire Department also maintains Engine Company 319 at 78-11 67th Road – which is in Community District #5 – approximately one mile west of the project site.

3.2.1.3 Health Care Services

Residents of Community District #6 are primarily served by two hospitals. The 302-bed North Shore University Hospital at Forest Hills is located at 102-01 66th Road, approximately one-and-a-half miles north of the project site, and the 251-bed Parkway Hospital is located at 70-35 113th Street, approximately two miles northeast of the project site.

3.2.1.4 Parks and Recreation

Forest Park, a 538-acre public park containing both active and passive recreational areas, is located just to the south of the project block, across Union Turnpike.

3.2.1.5 Public Schools

As previously noted (see **Section 2.1, Purpose and Need**), Queens' high schools enrolled students in excess of their built capacity – at a borough-wide utilization rate of 119 percent

– and suffered a shortfall of over 10,205 high school seats during the 2005-2006 school year. Although the IS/HS will serve students Citywide, it is expected that most students at the facility would live in the surrounding neighborhoods, whose high schools are extremely overcrowded (see **Appendix A**).

According to the NYCDOE, the two high schools closest to the project site operated far in excess of their intended capacity during the 2005-2006 school year. Forest Hills High School operated at 160 percent of capacity, while Newtown High School operated at 152 and percent of capacity (see **Appendix A**).

In addition, 200 seats at the high school would be reserved for District 75 students. According to the Department of Education, the Special Ed programs in Queens are operating at 94.2 percent of capacity overall, and the Special Ed program at Skillman High School is at 109 percent of capacity (see **Appendix A**).

3.2.1.6 Solid Waste

In New York City, solid waste generated by residential users, city agencies, city schools, street trash cans, and street cleaning is collected by the Department of Sanitation (DSNY). Approximately 5,100 tons of solid waste is collected daily in Queens by DSNY and private carters. In accordance with the New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, the City passed Local Law 19 requiring that residents and businesses separate recyclable material.

3.2.2 The Future Without the Project

3.2.2.1 Police Services

Within Community District #6, one additional large-scale retail development scheduled for completion by the school's build year of 2010 was identified: a new shopping center including a Trader Joe's will be located at 90-30 Metropolitan Avenue. Given its commercial character, the development is not expected to result in a significant change in the ability of local community facilities to provide their services.

3.2.2.2 Fire Services

Although the new shopping center under construction is located in the service area of the 112th Precinct, its development would likely impact its staffing or resources. Therefore, changes in the provision of police services to community residents or in the demand for these services are not expected to occur.

3.2.2.3 Health Care Services

The change in the number of area residents is too small to create a measurable impact in the overall demand on local health care facilities.

3.2.2.4 Parks and Recreation

No change of any substance in the use of active or passive recreation areas would be expected given the expected small increase in population.

3.2.2.5 Public Schools

As presented in **Appendix A**, borough high schools currently operate well over capacity. Without an increase in capacity, Queens high schools would continue to face overcrowding.

3.2.2.6 Solid Waste

No significant change in the amount of waste generated in the community is projected to occur by the project's build year of 2010. The shopping center is a private commercial development that must contract with private carters to dispose of all solid waste it generates.

3.2.3 Probable Impacts of the Proposed Project

3.2.3.1 Police Services

The Police Department would not be able to assess potential impacts of the proposed development or commit resources until the schools have been built and are operational. However, the Department routinely reviews and adjusts its staffing levels at precincts throughout the City to satisfy operational needs and to ensure the adequate distribution of personnel.

3.2.3.2 Fire Services

The proposed school would be constructed to meet all existing fire code regulations, and, therefore, would create only a negligible increase in the potential workload of the Fire Department.

3.2.3.3 Health Care Services

The project would have no impact upon health services in the community. Almost all of the students who are expected to attend the Metropolitan Avenue School Campus already live in the surrounding neighborhoods and make use of these services.

3.2.3.4 Parks and Recreation

The project would not have any adverse impacts upon existing recreation areas since the schools would be located on a campus-like site, and the proposed schools would have their own playground/recreation areas.

3.2.3.5 Public Schools

Construction of the Metropolitan Avenue School Campus would result in an important increase in intermediate and high school capacity within this section of Queens, which is expected to suffer from continued overcrowding.

3.2.3.6 Solid Waste

According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, each intermediate school seat typically generates solid waste at a rate of four pounds per week (ppw) and each high school seat at a rate of two ppw. Therefore, the proposed schools would generate solid wastes at a rate of approximately 1,800 ppw and 2,900 respectively, for a total of about 2.35 tons each week (assuming the IS/HS is divided evenly between intermediate and high school seats). Such an increase is negligible in light of the fact that the DSNY and private carters currently collect and dispose approximately 5,100 tons of municipal solid waste each day in Queens. Furthermore, the schools would be designed to incorporate space for waste recycling, which would likely reduce the actual amount of solid waste that will require disposal. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts on the City's ability to handle solid waste are anticipated.