

5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As prescribed in the SEQR Handbook, cumulative impacts must be assessed when actions are proposed, or can be foreseen as likely, to take place simultaneously or sequentially in a way that the combined impacts may be significant. As with direct impacts, assessment of cumulative impacts should be limited to consideration of reasonably foreseeable impacts, not speculative ones.

5.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

5.1.1 NEXUS Project

The Upper Mohawk Valley Memorial Auditorium Authority (Aud Authority) is contemplating additional development adjacent to the Aud; the Aud is a multi-purpose arena and home to the Utica Comets of the American Hockey League. If constructed, the proposed NEXUS Center (NEXUS) would consist of an 170,000± sf tournament-based recreation play facility which would be utilized for ice hockey, box lacrosse, soccer, and other field sports that can be performed on a 200-foot by 85-foot playing surface. NEXUS would include three playing surfaces, 25± locker rooms, commercial office space, college classroom space, retail space, food and beverage services, and other multi-purpose training space.

NEXUS would be developed in the block between Charles Street on the west and Broadway on the east, and Oriskany Street on the south and Whitesboro Street on the north. Charles Street would be abandoned, and NEXUS would be connected to the existing Aud. No site plan applications in support of NEXUS have been submitted to the City and a construction schedule has not been identified. Therefore, cumulative construction phase impacts are not anticipated. However, if the NEXUS project becomes more than just speculation, construction-related impacts would be minimized through coordination and implementation of maintenance and protection of traffic plans, as well as implementation of project-related mitigation measures identified throughout this DEIS.

5.1.2 CSO Project

As identified in Section 3.9, the City has implemented a series of projects to reduce CSOs. One of the projects (CSO Control Project A9.1) is currently underway near the project area and is approximately 95% complete. Project sponsors expect the project to be fully completed by the end of 2018. Consequently, no overlap (and cumulative impacts) with the IHC project are anticipated.

5.2 OPERATIONS PHASE

Based on conversations with the NYSDOT and the Aud Authority (August 2018), current events at the Aud typically do not impact commuter peak periods and there is not enough detailed information available regarding the Aud expansion and NEXUS Center to include potential impacts in this TIS. Therefore, traffic generated during Aud events or potential traffic generated by the Aud expansion and NEXUS Center are not included in this study.