

A. INTRODUCTION

The Project will not have any significant adverse impacts on the urban design character and visual resources within the study area and conversely will enhance the urban design character of downtown Wyandanch.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

All of the areas that would be affected or altered by the Project, including the new street network and the portions of Straight Path where off-site improvements are proposed, will be greatly enhanced from their current state. There is a strip mall (shown in **Figure 5-1a**) which is set back such that only a parking lot lines the sidewalk. There are surface parking lots for commuters (shown in **Figure 5-1b**) located in and around the Project Site, including the area where the new street network is proposed. The Project Site is characterized by somewhat haphazard placement of under-utilized and often derelict commercial and industrial buildings immediately adjacent to the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) station and platform. There is currently no open space on the Project Site.

C. THE PROJECT

URBAN DESIGN

Overall, the Project is anticipated to improve the current urban design character surrounding the LIRR Wyandanch station. The existing parking lots and other land uses will be replaced with a well thought-out intermodal transit facility that will incorporate pedestrian and bicycle access, and easier, more efficient vehicular access to secure parking.

The Project will include construction of a structured parking garage and pedestrian entrance on the Project Site and a new public plaza adjacent to the LIRR Wyandanch station. The Project will create new pedestrian facilities and access to the LIRR Wyandanch station, including a new landscaped street network with crosswalks throughout downtown, some with textured/permeable pavers to provide a visual and tactile feature for the most heavily trafficked pedestrian routes. The roadways adjacent to the plaza will be used primarily for drop-off/pick-up at the LIRR Wyandanch station. To encourage vehicles to travel at slower speeds, the streets will be paved with a textured pattern.

While the new garage, at approximately 60 feet tall, will be taller than the structures currently found on the Project Site, it will be consistent with the planning goals for the downtown area presented in the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan*, which calls for greater density for future development to capitalize on the proximity to transit.

Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility

The Project also includes new circulation routes to separate truck traffic from the downtown, pedestrian-oriented areas, elimination of heavy vehicular traffic adjacent to the public plaza, and efficient organization of traffic flow in and around the Project Site. The new pedestrian circulation routes will be designed with ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks, providing ample space and amenities for pedestrians.

New street trees, furniture, and signage will be implemented as part of the Project, improving the overall pedestrian comfort and safety downtown. On Straight Path, planted medians with physically separated left-turn lanes will provide greenery and pedestrian islands in the center of the street.

The critical viewsheds (shown in **Figure 5-2**), or areas from which the Project will be visible, will be improved by the Project. As identified by letter designation on the figure, these areas include the following:

- A. From intersection of Straight Path and LIRR tracks looking northeast;
- B. From south side of LIRR tracks from 16th Street to Lake Street looking north;
- C. From parcel on northwest corner of intersection of Acorn Street and Richbern Street looking west;
- D. From intersection of Straight Path and 9th Street looking south; and
- E. From intersection of Straight Path and 13th Street looking east.

Improvements to Straight Path, including a new bus stop directly in front of the proposed plaza and adjacent to the LIRR Wyandanch station, high visibility crosswalks, and a landscaped median will give the area a sense of place and act as a northern gateway to downtown Wyandanch, consistent with the Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan.

By replacing the large surface parking lot and partially vacant uses with a new public plaza, structured parking garage, sidewalks, and street network, the Project will enhance the overall character of the neighborhood, thereby encouraging activity in downtown Wyandanch. The new public plaza will provide a new focal point and gathering place in the downtown area where there are currently few open spaces or pedestrian-oriented features.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Since there are no visual resources on the Project Site or in the study area, the Project will not adversely affect any visual resources. *