



August 6, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

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**ILDC PUBLIC MEETING:
 BETHLEHEM STEEL SITE REDEVELOPMENT**
*Proposed options for bike path extension
 from Dona St. to Woodlawn Beach will be presented for public comment*

Thursday, August 13 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Online Meeting – no registration required for public or media

ZOOM MEETING LINK (VIDEO & AUDIO active at meeting start time):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83797212983?pwd=aVg0M1ZuQkhzODJiSjd5L2RlVWkZ6QT09>

Link will also be available at www.ecidany.com/streaming at meeting start time.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Opening Remarks** Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive, Erie County
- Project Overview** Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive, Erie County
John Cappellino, President & CEO, ECIDA/ILDC
- Presentation** Ed Flynn, AICP, Director of Planning, LaBella Associates
- Q&A /Public** Ed Flynn & Team
- Comment**

Lackawanna, NY—The Industrial Land Development Corporation [ILDC] will hold a meeting Thursday August 13 to collect public comment on a proposed extension for the Shoreline Trail Bike Path on the Bethlehem Steel site. Presentations for public comment on August 13 will include information on three potential routes to extend the popular Erie County Shoreline Trail Bike Path south from its current terminus at Dona Street in the City of Lackawanna to the proposed extended end at Woodlawn Beach State Park in the Town of Hamburg. The trail is part of the redevelopment of a 150 acre parcel along Route 5 purchased by ILDC in 2017.

Following the online meeting, participants will be directed to an online survey link to offer public input on trail alignment preferences, desired trail amenities, and other ideas to ensure community views are considered in the trail extension. The ILDC is asking residents to provide feedback on three trail extension options, to help plan the future of the Erie County Shoreline Trail Bike Path extension in their community.

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SHORELINE TRAIL BIKE PATH

The Shoreline Trail Bike Path is a multi-use trail that stretches along the Niagara River in Niagara County south through Erie County along Lake Erie to Lackawanna. The trail provides bike or on-foot recreational access for residents along the waterfront and stimulates economic development along its length. Phase I of the Bethlehem Steel site portion adjacent to Route 5 was completed in 2019.

“The extension of the Shoreline Trail will improve access to the waterfront and provide a critical link from Dona Street to Woodlawn Beach, so that residents will be able to travel the Trail from there all the way to Buffalo and beyond. This meeting provides residents with an opportunity to evaluate three possible paths and advocate for options they prefer, so I encourage all to take part and be a part of the ongoing growth of the Trail,” **said Erie County Executive and ILDC Chair Mark C. Poloncarz.**

“The redevelopment of these parcels along Route 5 have been a top priority for the ECIDA and our land development arm, the ILDC,” **said ECIDA & ILDC President/CEO John Cappellino.** “We continue to work with the County, State and the City of Lackawanna toward creating an advanced manufacturing commerce park, but this bike path has been a critical part of balancing green space and recreational use for the community. We think we have three really terrific options for public input, and we want to see which one stands out as the one the community wants developed,” **Cappellino added.**

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning have been working with a consultant team from LaBella Associates to assess the alignment, feasibility, and costs of extending the bike path south from the former Bethlehem Steel site to Woodlawn Beach.

Public comments will be accepted for one week after the meeting and considered in the evaluation process. Once a proposed plan is chosen, a feasibility study will be completed by LaBella, including budget and timeline for completing construction.

To attend the virtual public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 13 click on the link below (active at meeting start time), or to listen by phone dial in and enter the Meeting ID and passcode provided.

No registration required.

ZOOM MEETING LINK (VIDEO & AUDIO active at 6:00 p.m. Aug 13):
Link will also be available at www.ecidany.com/streaming at meeting start time.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83797212983?pwd=aVg0M1ZuQkhzODJiSjd5L2RlVWkZ6QT09>

Dial in
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 837 9721 2983
Passcode: 550697

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BACKGROUND ON THE FORMER BETHLEHEM STEEL SITE REDEVELOPMENT:

Redevelopment of the ILDC parcel on the former Bethlehem Steel site began in 2017 when the ILDC (land development arm of the ECIDA) purchased 150 acres along Route 5 from Tecumseh Redevelopment.

The ILDC and Erie County have since completed:

- Construction of Phase I of the multi-use Shoreline Trail bike pathway along Route 5
- The extension of Dona Street into the property from Ridge Road
- The relocation of rail lines to benefit existing and future businesses on the site
- Remediation under the NYS DEC Brownfield Cleanup Program

Thanks to sustained and diligent effort by Erie County and the ILDC, the future commerce park has acquired its first tenant: local cleaning products manufacturer TMP Technologies is currently building its new manufacturing facility on the site. The ILDC is now in the process of purchasing an additional adjacent 90 acres for Phase II of the redevelopment plans, and beginning the pre-development process for extending the Shoreline Trail bike path southward.

In March of 2018, the ILDC retained national AECOM engineering firm to prepare the property Infrastructure Master Plan, which is focused on road, utility and subdivision plans for the ILDC parcels fronting Route 5 on either side of Smoke Creek. Erie County and the ILDC held a public meeting in September 2018 to collect public comments regarding options for the Infrastructure Master Plan, which was completed with the help of grant funding from the Federal Economic Development Administration, National Grid and National Fuel Gas. The final Infrastructure Master Plan was then presented at a follow-up public meeting in December 2019, where public comments were then collected for the final DGEIS that were presented at a June 29, 2020 public meeting. To listen an audio recording of that meeting please click [here](#).

For instructions on how to submit written public comments, please visit www.ecidany.com and click on the Events tab on the main menu.

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees. The Industrial Land Development Corporation, or ILDC, is the land development services and bond issuance arm of the ECIDA. The ILDC is overseen by a separate Board of Directors, Chaired by Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz.

For more information, visit www.ecidany.com

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