



April 9, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

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ILDC PUBLIC MEETING FOLLOW-UP: BETHLEHEM STEEL SITE REDEVELOPMENT

*Updated final options for bike path extension from Dona St. to Woodlawn Beach
will be presented for final public comment*

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Online Meeting – no registration required for public or media

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147246907?pwd=UHNVcnY3ZXVydk5pcTRyQk5ncEhJZz09>

The meeting can also be accessed by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the meeting ID and passcode:

Meeting ID: 841 4724 6907

Passcode: 747477

Audio listen-only live link available at www.ecidany.com/streaming at **meeting start time.**

MEETING AGENDA:

Opening Remarks

John Cappellino, President & CEO, ECIDA/ILDC

Presentation

Ed Flynn, AICP, Director of Planning, LaBella Associates

Q&A /Public Comment

Ed Flynn & Team

Lackawanna, NY—The Industrial Land Development Corporation [ILDC] will hold a virtual public meeting Tuesday, April 13 to collect final public comments on three potential bike path routes that would extend the popular Erie County Shoreline Trail Bike Path south (from its current terminus at Dona Street in the City of Lackawanna) to Woodlawn Beach State Park in the Town of Hamburg. The ILDC is asking residents to provide final feedback on the three trail extension options, which were revised since August 2020 to include public input offered at that time. The Shoreline Trail Bike Path is part of the ILDC’s ongoing redevelopment of a 150-acre parcel along Route 5 into a manufacturing commerce park.

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Following the online meeting, participants will be directed to an online survey link to offer final public input on trail alignment preferences, desired trail amenities, and other ideas to ensure community views are considered in the trail extension.

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.**

“We continue our efforts with the County, State and the City of Lackawanna in redeveloping 150 acres into an advanced manufacturing commerce park,” **said ECIDA & ILDC President/CEO John Cappellino.** “These final bike path proposals include ideas from the community that we received at the first public meeting back in August of 2020. This meeting will provide the community with one more opportunity to offer public comment before we decide which final proposal will go forward,” **Cappellino added.**

With funding from New York State’s Empire State Development agency, the ECIDA and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning have engaged 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 April 13 meeting and considered in the final evaluation process. Once a proposed plan is chosen, a feasibility study will be completed by LaBella, including potential funding sources, budget and a construction timeline.

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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 (the land development arm of the ECIDA) purchased 150 acres along Route 5 from Tecumseh Redevelopment.

In partnership with Empire State Development, 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
- Sale of 28 acres to TMP Technologies, for new manufacturing facility
- Purchase agreement with Uniland Development for new spec building on 10 acres
- Finalized Sewer/water infrastructure Master Plan

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](#).

Public comments on the three potential Shoreline Trail Bike Path extension options were collected at an August 13, 2020 virtual meeting. To listen to 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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