



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 20, 2014

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section – Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – City of Lackawanna**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum authorizing the Department of Environment and Planning to submit an application to the New York State Department of Transportation TAP grant program in the amount of \$980,160. The resolution also authorizes the County Executive to sign documents related to this application. Matching funding for this grant application will be requested of your honorable body in the 2015 Capital Budget through the Brownfield Redevelopment project.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Kenneth J. Swanekamp, Director of Business Assistance, at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw  
Enclosure

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section – Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application – City of Lackawanna  
**Date:** June 20, 2014

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### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Environment and Planning is seeking authorization to submit an application to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. If successful, funds will be used for design and construction of the Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section. Matching funding for this project will be requested from your honorable body in the 2015 Erie County Capital Budget.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The attached resolution authorizes the County Executive to sign all documents and agreements related to this TAP application for the section of the Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section. By seeking financial assistance from NYS DOT, the County is leveraging proposed County funding to maximize the impact at the lowest possible cost to the County and County taxpayers. If awarded, funding for the match in the amount of \$250,000 will be sought in the 2015 County Capital Budget request.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Applications to grant programs allow the County to maximize the benefit at the smallest cost to the County and County taxpayer. If funded, this will result in construction of one of the most difficult to plan and construct, yet most important sections of the Shoreline Trail through the former Bethlehem Steel property site.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The City of Lackawanna is a community that was created as a “steel town”, with no public access to the west side of Route 5 and with the view of the Bethlehem site as a chain link fence with rail cars and heavy industry behind it.

This project will create a landscaped greenspace on the west side of Route 5, with a portion of the Shoreline Trail continuing south towards Hamburg and Woodlawn Beach State Park. The current Shoreline Trail has been constructed in phases through the City of Buffalo and passing through the Outer Harbor, crossing the Union Ship Canal before terminating near the Buffalo – Lackawanna border. This proposed section will continue the Trail southward to Smokes Creek and connect with the residential neighborhoods of Lackawanna.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The County will not seek funding from the NYS DOT TAP Program during this round of funding. Construction of the Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section will be delayed until additional funding is secured.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Department of Environment and Planning will prepare and submit an application for funding. If awarded the TAP grant, and the matching funds are included in the approved 2015 Erie County Budget, the County will enter into an agreement with the NYS DOT.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel  
Section – Transportation Alternatives  
Program (TAP) Application – City  
of Lackawanna

WHEREAS, the County desires to continue the construction of a system of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian multi-use trails along Lake Erie to provide linkages between existing bicycle and pedestrian trails, residential neighborhoods, parks and recreation areas including Lake Erie, retail centers and employment centers; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to continue the construction of the Shoreline Trail – Bethlehem Steel Section from the Buffalo – Lackawanna border to Smokes Creek and the Lackawanna First Ward neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to provide this type of facility to residents at the lowest possible cost to the County and County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to apply for financial assistance from the New York State Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and

WHEREAS, the County commits to making a decision through its 2015 Capital Budget process on providing the required local matching funds to insure the timely implementation of the proposed project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature authorizes the Department of Environment and Planning to prepare and submit an application for TAP funding in the amount of \$980,160; and be it further

RESOLVED, that prior to contract execution the County shall make available \$250,000 in matching funds to satisfy the requirements of the funding program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the source of said match, if approved by the Erie County Legislature, shall be funds available within the 2015 Capital Budget for the Brownfield Redevelopment project; and be if further

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature authorizes the County Executive to sign all documents and agreements related to the Transportation Enhancement Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office; the Comptroller's Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor.