



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

MARIA R. WHYTE
COMMISSIONER

December 9, 2014

Honorable Edward Rath III
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: National Award for Bethlehem Rail Project Presented to the Erie County Industrial Development Agency and Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

Dear Legislator Rath:

We would like to advise you that the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented a Gold Award to Erie County and the ECIDA for the Bethlehem Rail Relocation Project. This took place at the National Conference of the IEDC in Fort Worth, Texas on October 20, 2014. Chris Pawenski of the Department of Environment and Planning and Phil Riggs of ECIDA accepted the award.

This was a \$4.4 million project to move rail track from the edge of the property along Route 5 and relocate it to a more strategic location to better serve the port and new industrial users at the Bethlehem site. This project is the first step in the redevelopment of the Bethlehem site with modern infrastructure to serve firms such as the recently opened Welded Tube project, a \$40 million Canadian investment.

We are excited that redevelopment projects that change the image of Erie County and Western New York are being recognized at the national level. We simply wanted to share this good news. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 858-6716 or via email at Maria.Whyte@erie.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria R. Whyte".

Maria R. Whyte
Commissioner, Environment and Planning

MRW:jmb

CC: Legislator John Mills, Chairman
Legislator Joseph Lorigo, Majority Leader
Legislator Betty Jean Grant, Minority Leader
Karen McCarthy, Clerk of the Legislature
Jon Riviera, Liaison to the Legislature