



MEMORANDUM

ECLEG MAR11'14 #10-35

COUNTY OF ERIE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

TO: CHAIRMAN JOHN J. MILLS, Erie County Legislature;
CHAIRMAN STEPHEN BOYD, Erie Community College (ECC) Board of Trustees

FROM: THOMAS J. DEARING, Deputy Commissioner

DATE: March 4, 2014

SUBJECT: Bi-Monthly Report – ECC Academic Building

This document represents the third in a series of bi-monthly reports pertaining to the design and construction of the new academic building for Erie Community College (ECC). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed on August 27, 2013 between ECC and Erie County provided for the preparation of such reports. The reports are distributed to the Erie County Legislature as well as the ECC Board of Trustees. Information describing previous work, scheduling, upcoming activity and other matters are described in this document.

A. **PREVIOUS WORK:** The following activities have occurred since the previous report dated December 31, 2013.

1. The analysis required under the New York State Environmental Review Act (SEQR) is underway. On February 6, 2014 a coordinated review – lead agency solicitation letter was sent to 23 agencies having a direct or indirect interest in the project. The correspondence noted Erie County's intent to serve as lead agency for the SEQR review and included Part 1 of the environmental assessment form. The latter describes the project in relation to 8 major environmental categories.

Responses to the lead agency designation as well as any information Erie County should consider in determining the level of environmental impact are due by March 10, 2014.

2. A meeting was held with representatives from the Town of Amherst Planning Department, Fisher Associates, and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning on January 30, 2014. The purpose of the session was to obtain Town feedback on the project, especially in regard to infrastructure requirements. Town

officials did not identify any major impacts that the new academic building would have on Town facilities or surrounding land use.

3. Extensive discussions occurred among representatives from Erie Community College (ECC), Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), Erie County – Department of Law, and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning regarding the draft Project Management Agreement. A final draft is under review; however, final execution is not expected until after the SEQR process is complete.
- B. **SCHEDULE:** Although Fisher Associates is projecting a mid-May, 2014 completion date for determining the environmental significance of the project, County officials are pushing for a mid-April completion. The May date was established due to possible snow cover preventing necessary environmental walk throughs and cultural resource surveys.
- C. **IMPORTANT MILESTONES/ ACTIONS ANTICIPATED IN THE UPCOMING TWO MONTHS:**
1. A resolution will be considered by the Erie County Legislature that provides a technical adjustment to the Legislative action taken on December 12, 2013 through Comm. 20E-5 (2013). Since DASNY will assume design and construction responsibilities it is necessary for the Legislature to affirm their approval responsibilities relative to SEQR determinations prior to final work on any preferred alternative site.
 2. A traffic assessment will be completed by Fisher Associates relative to the building's vehicular trip generation impacts on the surrounding road system;
 3. Work on Parts 2 and 3 of the SEQR environmental assessment form will be completed permitting preparation of a draft determination of environmental significance.

CC: County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz
Deputy County Executive Richard M. Tobe
Commissioner Maria R. Whyte
Commissioner John C. Loffredo
ECC President Jack Quinn
ECC Chief Administrative and Financial Officer William D. Reuter