



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 6, 2020

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

**RE: Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project – Authorization to Accept Funds and Enter into an Agreement with a Construction Contractor**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution seeking authorization to repave and enhance the Shoreline Trail in the Town and City of Tonawanda. The resolution authorizes the acceptance of two grants from the Niagara River Greenway in the amount of \$514,785 and \$500,000 and also authorizes a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for construction of the project.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Thomas R. Hersey Jr. 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/mw  
Enclosure

cc: Thomas R. Hersey Jr., Commissioner of Environment and Planning  
William Geary, Commissioner of Public Works  
Troy Schinzel, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project – Authorization to Accept Funds and Enter into an Agreement with a Construction Contractor  
**Date:** July 6, 2020

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### **SUMMARY**

The Shoreline Trail section in the Town and City of Tonawanda is one of the most heavily utilized sections of the State-wide Erie Canalway Trail system. Largely constructed in the 1980's, the Trail system is in need of upgrades to meet current demands. The Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) applied and was awarded a total of four grants which will offset the cost of construction of the repair, repaving and enhancement of portions of the Shoreline Trail in the City and Town of Tonawanda. The County recently completed design and is anticipating bidding the project in July in order to adhere to the schedule required by the grant funding agencies and complete construction within the 2020 construction season. It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of \$1,014,785 in total grant award and authorizing the County to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for construction of the Shoreline Trail Enhancement project.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The County is responsible for capital improvements of the Shoreline Trail in the Town and City of Tonawanda. This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$1,014,000 in grants which will allow the County to fulfill this obligation with little cost to the County. The County previously received \$400,000 in grants from the NYS Parks and Recreation and Niagara River Greenway which funded design and a portion of construction. The total funding of this project including design is completely offset by grants.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the County accept the Greenway Grants and authorize the contract with the lowest responsible construction bidder to improve the condition of the Shoreline Trail.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Erie County is responsible for capital improvement of the Shoreline Trail in the Town and City of Tonawanda. Erie County applied and was awarded a total of four grants totaling \$1,414,785 to cover design and construction of necessary capital improvements to the Shoreline Trail in the Town of and City Tonawanda. The Project will include the repaving and reconstructing approximately 5.85 miles of the multi-use trail surface. The user experience will be enhanced through the introduction of new interpretative signs, landscaping, bench and bike repair stations.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**


In the event the proposed resolution is not passed, Erie County will be unable to enter into a contract to accept the \$1,014,785 in grant funding. The County will need to find alternative sources to fund the County obligations of capital maintenance along the Shoreline Trail. The condition of the recreational trail will continue to deteriorate.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County will execute agreements with funding agencies and bid and award the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder. The construction will commence in August.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to an authorized capital project for which there are sufficient appropriations for the action proposed available in A.19075

  
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Gregory Gach  
Comptroller's Office

John Solecki  
Director of Accounting Services & Cash Management

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

RE: Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project – Acceptance of Funds

WHEREAS, the County of Erie is interested in the improvement of the Shoreline Trail system; and

WHEREAS, Erie County owns or is responsible for capital maintenance of the Shoreline Trail in Town of Tonawanda and a portion in the City of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, periodically capital improvements are needed to provide for a safe trail surface and provide amenities which are desired by trail users on this heavily utilized trail section; and

WHEREAS, Erie County applied and was awarded a total of \$1,014,785 in two separate grants from the Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Standing Committee for the purposes of undertaking capital improvements on the Shoreline Trail in the Town and City of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is desirous of constructing the Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project in the Town and City of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the relevant sections of the Erie County Administrative Code, a public bidding of the construction contract will occur prior to the awarding of the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to complete the following budget adjustment to Capital Project Account A.19075.

Increase Revenue/ Appropriations totaling \$514,785 as follows:

<u>Revenue</u>	
420499 (Other Local Source Revenue)	\$514,785
<u>Appropriation</u>	
516020 (Professional Services – Contractual Fees)	\$514,785

Increase Revenue/Appropriations totaling \$500,000 as follows:

<u>Revenue</u>	
420499 (Other Local Source Revenue)	\$500,000

Appropriation

516020 (Professional Services – Contractual Fees)

\$500,000

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided for the County Executive to enter into all agreements necessary to accept funding and accept reimbursement of these funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,014,785 from the Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Standing Committee, New York Power Authority or Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided for the County Executive to enter into all agreements necessary to implement the construction of the Shoreline Trail Project; and be it further

RESOLVED that an amount of \$1,214,785 be allocated from Capital Project Account A.19075 with authorization from the County Executive to execute agreements necessary to implement construction of the Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project;

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be authorized to execute a Contract for construction services for the Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,214,785 with the lowest responsible bidder; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; 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; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and the Commissioner of Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.