



In the News

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Commerce park on former Bethlehem Steel site,
Angola Agri-business park take major steps forward**
*Sewer/waterline engineering and Master Plan design agreements
are approved by ILDC Board of Directors*

Buffalo, NY—The Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation (“ILDC”) Board of Directors unanimously approved two measures Wednesday that will move two major Erie County commerce park projects forward.

In its monthly meeting held February 24, the ILDC Board approved an agreement between Erie County and the ILDC to fund the design of an infrastructure Master Plan and development of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the 240-acre site of the former Angola Airport in Angola. The County agreed to fund up to \$230,100 to “provide services related to planning work necessary to develop the Angola Agri-business Park,” according to the ILDC Board memorandum. The masterplan design is being jointly funded by Erie County and National Grid.

Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz serves as the Chair of the ILDC, which is the land development arm of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (“ECIDA”).

“The planned Angola Agribusiness Park will energize Erie County’s agricultural sector and provide growers with a hub for distributing produce statewide. With this unanimous approval the Ag Park is one step closer to being a reality, and that’s great news for Erie County farmers,” **said Poloncarz.**

ILDC/ECIDA President John Cappellino said the agency has been working with Erie County, the Town of Angola and the private landowner for more than 3 years to purchase the land to create agri-business job opportunities in southern Erie County. The site is located at the intersection of Evans Center Road and Southwestern Boulevard just east of the central business district of Angola, New York.

“Thanks to the leadership of the County Executive and his economic development team, we have reached a very important turning point in this process, where we will actually begin to see this agri-business park take shape,” **said Cappellino.**

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In Wednesday's meeting the ILDC Board also approved C & S Companies' proposal to design and engineer sewers and water lines on 150 acres of the former Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna. C & S will be paid \$146,387 for the services, adding to the infrastructure improvements already made on the site. Erie County and the ILDC have so far completed an extension of Dona Street into the property including curbs, water and fire hydrants, a 1.2-mile bike path along the east side of the 150 acres owned by the ILDC, and remediation efforts to make the site shovel-ready.

The ILDC's first tenant, TMP Technologies, has nearly completed construction on their 290,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility on the Dona Street Extension. TMP purchased 28 acres in 2019 in order to expand their cleaning products manufacturing space, and saved more than 100 jobs from moving out of state.

"Warehouse and manufacturing commercial space is critical to retaining jobs and attracting new businesses to Western New York," said **ILDC/ECIDA President and CEO John Cappellino**. "The closer to shovel-ready these parcels are, the more attractive the site is to manufacturers. The success of the TMP project has demonstrated the viability of this land as a future commerce park," Cappellino said.

ILDC Chair and County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz said, "The former Bethlehem Steel site is seeing new life and generating intense interest from businesses hoping to locate and prosper there. With today's ILDC Board approval, another 150 acres at the site will see construction of water and sewer lines, essential components for business and another sign that the future of the new business park is bright."

A second business joined TMP in the ILDC site this year: Uniland Development and the ILDC entered into a purchase agreement in January to buy approximately 10 acres on the ILDC parcel. Uniland plans to construct a manufacturing/warehouse spec building. Sugar wholesaler Sucro Sourcing purchased parcels adjacent to the ILDC Land.

Future plans for the ILDC commerce park include branding, signage, and extending the bike path south to Woodlawn Beach.

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. For more information about the ECIDA, visit www.ecidany.com.

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 Poloncarz. For more information on the former Bethlehem Steel site redevelopment, visit www.ecidany.com/bethlehem-steel.

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