



Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

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ERIE CANAL HARBOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SELECTS CONTRACTOR FOR IMPROVED BIKE FERRY LANDING AND MARINA IMPROVEMENTS

Project will enhance the recreational use of the Outer Harbor and Canalside

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) Board of Directors met today and approved the selection of Buffalo contractor Pinto Construction Services, Inc. to make improvements to the Queen City Bike Ferry landing on Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The bike ferry, which debuted in summer 2015, was an instant success, carrying more than 50,000 people in its first season. Pinto Construction will replace a group of existing boat docks at the First Buffalo Marina (32 Fuhrmann Boulevard) on property owned by the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) and install amenities to permit the expanded Queen City Bike Ferry service.

"The bike ferry has proven to be a success with Canalside visitors," said Robert Gioia, ECHDC Chairman. "This project will create an even better experience for riders as they disembark to explore and enjoy the Outer Harbor."

The \$825,000 project is intended to enhance the recreational use of the Outer Harbor and Canalside, as well as improve the pedestrian-bicycle trail system along the waterfront. The work will result in a dedicated Outer Harbor landing for the Queen City Bike Ferry with a direct link to the water's edge, rest area for riders and enhanced landscape.

The project includes the replacement of a section of existing transient (i.e., seasonal) docks and the access gangway at the marina. Also, a paved pedestrian pathway will be created, which will extend from the access gangway, through a portion of an existing paved boat storage area on the site, and then terminate at Fuhrmann Boulevard. Additional site amenities and aesthetic features will also be installed, including signage, benches, planters, bicycle racks, and accessory structures.

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) is funding the project as a result of relicensing agreements tied to the Niagara Power Project. Pinto Construction was found to be the lowest bidder following a bid solicitation for water-bike ferry improvements.

“The Power Authority has been committed to working with its partners in Western New York toward the development of Buffalo’s Outer Harbor,” said Gil C. Quiniones, NYPA president and CEO. “This project will greatly improve the access area to the bike ferry, further enhancing a significant tourism attraction in Buffalo.”

The project is slated to begin in February 2016 and be complete by May 14, 2016.

About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

The ECHDC is governed by a nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors. The seven voting directors are recommended by the New York State Governor and are appointed by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development as sole shareholder of ECHDC. The two nonvoting, ex-officio director positions are held by the Erie County Executive and the City of Buffalo Mayor.

As a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state’s chief economic development agency, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation supports and promotes the creation of infrastructure and public activities at Canalside, the Ohio Street corridor and the Outer Harbor that is attracting critical mass, private investment and enhance the enjoyment of the waterfront for residents and tourists in Western New York. Its vision is to revitalize Western New York’s waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region’s legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty. For more information on ECHDC, visit www.eriecanalharbor.com.

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