Brookhaven Commends Work of Long Island Regional Economic Development Council for a "Best Plan" Award and for Receiving $101.6 million for Long Island
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Ronkonkoma Hub receives $4 million to design sewage treatment plant

Design Team Unanimously Recommends Tritec as Master Developer

Farmingville, NY - At its work session on Thursday, December 8, 2011, Supervisor Mark Lesko and the Town Board touted the eleven projects located in the Town of Brookhaven that will receive funding through the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council's (LIREDC) high ranking strategic plan. Long Island was one of four out of ten NYS Regional Councils to be named a "best plan awardee," and received a total of $101.6 million for 66 projects island-wide to jumpstart the economy.

The Ronkonkoma Hub Transit-Oriented Development will receive $4 million from Empire State Development for the design of a Suffolk County regional sewage treatment plant that will serve the redevelopment of the 50 acres north of the Ronkonkoma Train Station in the Town of Brookhaven and business development around Long Island MacArthur Airport in Islip.

Also at the Town Board's work session, members of the Ronkonkoma Hub Design Team including Planning Commissioner Tullio Bertoli, President of the Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization George Schramm, and President of the Ronkonkoma Chamber of Commerce Denise Schwarz announced the Design Team's unanimous recommendation of Tritec Real Estate Company, LLC, as Master Developer of the Ronkonkoma Hub. In their letter to the Town Board, the Design Team called Ronkonkoma "one of the most exciting projects in Brookhaven's history." The LIREDC's Strategic Plan hailed Ronkonkoma as a "A rare collaboration between two large towns, Brookhaven and Islip, and Suffolk County, to provide a necessary sewage treatment plant that will allow construction of a smart growth transit-oriented villages in a distressed community - and which will strengthen ties between Suffolk's largest rail station and a regional airport in a commercially critical area." The Town of Brookhaven hopes to create a sustainable and walkable vibrant center of economic activity that will attract young people.

"I thank Governor Cuomo for his efforts to create jobs and jumpstart the economy on Long Island and all across New York State," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "the funding for the Ronkonkoma Hub and the Design Team's recommendation for Master Developer brings us closer to making a live-work-play destination near the busiest train station on Long Island and MacArthur Airport a reality. In addition to the $4 million for the Ronkonkoma Hub sewage treatment plant, Brookhaven is home to six of the thirteen transformative projects and several additional important projects that will spur business development, high-tech job creation, and improve our communities. I would also like to thank Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, Ken Adams, President of Empire State Development, Regional Council Co-Chairs Kevin Law and Stu Rabinowitz, and Regional Council Executive Director Andrea Lohneiss for their dedication and hard work in completing our winning plan."

"Brookhaven seems to be at the center of Long Island's economic activity - the vibrant destination we aim to create at the Ronkonkoma Hub is a game-changer for the entire region, and there are many other worthwhile projects that will be funded as a result of the Regional Economic Development Council's hard work. I thank the Governor and look forward to continuing to partner with the Community on the Ronkonkoma Hub," said Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh.

"The $4 million we will receive for Ronkonkoma is great news. We have been working on the Ronkonkoma Hub with the community for a long time and I am pleased that this project is coming to fruition," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, "We will continue to move forward in our efforts to redevelop the area around the train station and create hundreds, if not thousands of jobs."

In addition to the Ronkonkoma Hub, the following projects located in the Town of Brookhaven were also funded:

- Accelerate Long Island - Accelerate Long Island was announced by Supervisor Mark Lesko in January 2011 and is now a partnership between the Long Island Association and Long Island's world class research institutions, including Stony Brook University and Brookhaven
National Laboratory. Accelerate Long Island will receive $500,000 in seed funding for new companies that will match private venture funds to support start-up technology firms. Accelerate Long Island was one of thirteen projects island-wide to be named "transformative" by the LIREDC. Transformative projects are game-changers for the region and promise the highest return on investment.

- Amneal Pharmaceuticals - Amneal Pharmaceuticals is a company located in Yaphank and will receive $3 million to expand its operation to retain and create new jobs. The LIREDC also named Amneal Pharmaceuticals a transformative project.

- Stony Brook University Engine - This is a public-private partnership between Hofstra and Stony Brook Universities to boost the number of engineering graduates. The LIREDC also named the Stony Brook University Engine a transformative project and will receive $2 million from New York State.

- Smart Grid 3- This is a Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory collaboration that will receive $5 million to establish Long Island as a national center for energy research, development, and manufacturing. The LIREDC also named the Smart Grid 3 a transformative project

- Stony Brook STEM and BNL LI STEM Hub- Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory both will receive funding ($350,000 and $320,000 respectively) for furthering STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and bringing research, employers, and government together to support training programs for grades K-12. The LIREDC also named the STEM Hub a transformative project.

- Blue Green Farms - Blue Green Farms, Inc, located in Yaphank will receive $517,293 to support the integration of state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouses systems for growing vegetables with cutting edge aquaculture for raising edible fish through a green technology known as aquaponics.

- Stony Brook University - Stony Brook University will receive $49,875 for various certificate training programs in areas like LEED Green Associate and Certified Green professional.

- Uncle Wally's - Uncle Wally's in Shirley will receive $1,469,419 for expanding its business and purchasing new equipment.

- Harbor Walk - The Village of Port Jefferson will receive $100,000 to complete the Harborwalk component of Harborfront Park with a direct pedestrian connection and public access to the remaining 400 feet of shoreline that connects the Harborfront Park and Village Center on the east, Danford's Inn and Marina and the Port Jefferson Ferry on the west, and the Maritime Explorium.

Supervisor Mark Lesko served as an ex-officio member of the LIREDC and two Brookhaven employees participated in the Council’s work. Jim Morgo, Economic Development Coordinator, served as the Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Working Group, and Stacey Epifane Sikes, Deputy Chief of Staff, served as a member of the Writer's Committee.

The next steps for the Ronkonkoma Hub Transit-Oriented Development will be to negotiate an agreement with the recommended Master Developer, which then has to be approved by the Town Board. To learn more about the Ronkonkoma Hub, visit www.brookhaven.org.

Click here to read the Ronkonkoma Hub Design Team's Letter to the Town Board recommending the designation of Tritec Development Company, LLC as Master Developer of the Ronkonkoma Hub Transit-Oriented Development.