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Canal Redevelopment Project will extend public waterfront access in Fairport

(Fairport, N. Y. – December 5, 2012) The Fairport Office of Community + Economic Development (OCED) is pleased to announce that construction work for a public promenade on the south side of the Erie Canal to the east of Parker Street bridge has begun. The project will extend public access to the Erie Canal and includes new boat docks, a pocket park, landscaping, new lighting and other site amenities that will benefit residents, boaters and visitors alike. The public promenade is expected to be completed by May 2013, just in time for the start of the canal boating season.

In 2007, the Fairport Industrial Development Agency (IDA) purchased the former Department of Public Works (DPW) parcel and has since transformed it into a shovel-ready redevelopment site. The Fairport IDA was able to secure a \$158,000 Restore NY grant from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) for demolition and asbestos removal as well as a \$584,000 matching grant from the New York State Department of State (DOS). These funds will be leveraged by substantial Fairport IDA investment. The roughly \$1.5M project costs include initial building demolition and soil remediation as well as canal breakwall construction and a public promenade.

Pooler Enterprises was awarded the construction contract. The New York State Canal Corporation, BME Associates, Foundation Design, Jensen Engineers and LaBella Associates round out the core project team. At the same time, the Fairport IDA anticipates to attract private investment for a complementing residential component on this prime 2-acre waterfront site.

“This is another successful example of the Village of Fairport providing public improvements to spur private investment,” says H. Kevin Clark, Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chair of the IDA Board of Directors. “This project will expand and enhance our much-treasured canal corridor.”

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