

**ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**  
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**Memorandum**

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Sean O'Connor & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair Hector Titus**

**Re: June & July 2003 meetings**

**Date: July 25, 2003**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met June 25 and July 21, 2003 at Pizzeria Uno's on Maple Road. Present for the June meeting were subcommittee members Titus and Nasoff, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Barry Weinstein. Present for the July meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Eldridge, and Nasoff, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

Economic Development Working Group / Regional ED Strategy

The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis for the Regional Economic Development Strategy and the Framework for Regional Growth has been drafted, and has received comment from the Strategy's Technical Advisory Committee. A draft strategy will then be produced by the fall, with extensive public input to follow. The final version of the strategy will be delivered by the end of the year. The Framework is using this SWOT and strategy as part of the economic development portion of its document.

Small Business Development

Subcommittee Chair Titus posed the question of what is being done in our region to foster small business retention and development. Through his preliminary research, it seems that while some groups are actively engaged with small business, there is no real regional small business administration, nor are the "big guys" such as the BNP, BNE, or IDAs very focused on small business. The Subcommittee will continue to research this topic, with a goal of possibly bringing a project for concept approval by the end of the year.

REDD

Please see the Government Affairs Subcommittee report for an update on REDD.

### Other Topics

Other topics discussed include the ENRP Transportation Committee's Job Development & Public Transportation initiative, the resolution of the Motorcoach Convention's permit issues (as well as lingering issues that have not yet been addressed), the hiring of a lobbyist by the Niagara County Building Trades to work on the NFIA and on downtown Niagara Falls land owned by the NFTA, current ECIDA projects, and the Inner Harbor Project. On that topic, **the Economic Development Subcommittee is seeking approval to invite Empire State Development and the ECIDA to be the guest speaker at the ENRP's September general meeting to give an update on the Inner Harbor project and other waterfront development efforts.**