



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 17, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Contract for Capital Improvements to Buffalo Southern and DL&W County Railroads

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the execution of contracts for capital improvements to the County owned Buffalo Southern and DL&W Railroads.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Daniel R. Castle in the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb
Enclosures

cc: Daniel R. Castle A.I.C.P., Commissioner
Mark P. Rountree, Chief Planner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Contract for Capital Improvements to Buffalo Southern and DL&W County Railroads
Date: October 17, 2025

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorize the County Executive to enter into contracts for the purpose of capital improvements to the Buffalo Southern and DL&W Railroads.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding was allocated for this purpose in the 2025 Capital Budget.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Buffalo Southern Capital Maintenance	A.25055	\$300,000
DL&W Capital Maintenance	A.25056	\$150,000

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The County owned railroads require annual capital maintenance to the railroad, bridges, culverts and road crossings to address safety and operational concerns.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Buffalo Southern Railroad is a County-owned shortline railroad operating between the City of Buffalo and Village of Gowanda. It traverses Hamburg, Eden, North Collins and Collins.

The Depew Lancaster & Western Railroad is a County-owned shortline railroad operating between Lancaster and Cheektowaga.

The railroads support commercial and industrial customers by providing heavy bulk transportation of products including animal feed, fertilizer, fuel, and lumber.

The County contracts with the ECIDA for the management of the railroads. The railroads are leased to operators who operate the railroad.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If a resolution to enter into a contract is not approved, the Railroad improvements will not be completed. The needed improvements will be delayed until additional funding is secured, and the timeline of this project will be extended until such time that additional funds can be raised.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Contract for Capital Improvements to Buffalo Southern and DL&W County Railroads

WHEREAS, the County is interested in the fostering of business growth and job retention within the County; and

WHEREAS, the County is the owner of a short line railroad, named Rail Line 1246, running from South Buffalo to Gowanda; and

WHEREAS, the County is the owner of a short line railroad, named Rail Line 1242, running through Lancaster and Depew

WHEREAS, the County leases Buffalo Southern and DL&W railroads to the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (the "Organization"), and the Organization manages the lease with the Buffalo Southern and DL&W operators; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Southern and DL&W railroads require capital maintenance to address operational and safety deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Organization has experience in contracting for construction projects on behalf of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County has allocated \$300,000 for rehabilitation of the Buffalo Southern Railroad in the 2025 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the County has allocated \$150,000 for rehabilitation of the DL&W railroad in the 2025 Capital Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute contracts as necessary with the Erie County Industrial Development Agency and Buffalo Southern in amounts not to exceed \$300,000 from Capital Account A.25055 for the rehabilitation of the Buffalo Southern and DL&W railroads; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute contracts as necessary with the Erie County Industrial Development Agency and DL&W in amounts not to exceed \$150,000 from Capital Account A.25056 to implement the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this

resolution to the County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Division of Budget and Management, Department of Law, and Department of Environment and Planning.