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August 7, 2026

Hon. Taisha St. Jean-Tard
Erie County Legislator
Erie County Hall, 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: The DL&W

Dear Legislator St. Jean-Tard:

As a follow-up to your recent meeting with Chris Fahey and Brendan Orr, and at your invitation, this correspondence is intended to update you and your colleagues on the status and progress of the various NFTA initiatives at the historic DL&W Train Shed at the foot of South Park Avenue and Main Street along Buffalo's downtown waterfront. We respectfully request that the Clerk of the Legislature enter this letter into the Legislature's proceedings so that it may be publicly available.

Contrary to public messaging that progress at the DL&W is somehow stalled, the site has in fact been a steady hub of construction activity over the past six years. Significant, already programmed and funded work will continue in the coming years. Since 2019, the Commissioners of the NFTA have authorized \$121,652,911.58 in capital investments at the site, principally funded by the State of New York. These investments have supported substantial progress including:

- The opening of the DL&W Metro Rail station in December
- That station's direct access to South Park Avenue, which is nearly complete
- Major rehabilitation of the building's Buffalo River shoreline is well underway
- The pedestrian bridge to the Key Bank Center is under construction

- Activation of the 50,000+ sq. ft. second-floor outdoor deck overlooking the Buffalo River is scheduled to begin with a public event in early October, the details of which will be forthcoming.

The attached table provides additional detail on the completed and ongoing NFTA investments at the site, and the attached photos show some examples of ongoing construction progress. To date, this work is estimated to have supported over 5,000 jobs-across construction and related supply industries.

Recent media commentary has suggested that the NFTA's termination of the pre-development agreement for the second floor has stalled progress. In fact, the opposite is true. As detailed in [the letters from our attorneys which were shared with the members of the Legislature on November 26th of last year](#), the termination of the pre-development agreement was *necessary* to maintain the project's ongoing momentum and ensure continued advancement of the project.

In addition to the ongoing funded and approved work laid out in the attached table, the future of the DL&W is promising. The DL&W is a significant asset in the study area for Empire State Development's recently announced fast-track strategic planning process for Buffalo's downtown waterfront. Insights from that effort will help guide further transformation of the facility.

Further, the upcoming activation of the new public space on the deck overlooking the Buffalo River will generate important lessons and opportunities that will inform future possibilities for the site.

Restoring this historic public asset and expanding the ways in which the community can benefit from it is a large and complex undertaking. Despite the inherent challenges, the NFTA has remained committed to making steady meaningful progress and we will continue this important work. The NFTA is grateful for your leadership and your continued support.

Sincerely,



Kimberley A. Minkel
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Erie County Legislature, c/o Ms. Olivia Owens, Clerk of the Legislature



Project	Type	Initial Authorization	Amount	Status	Notes
DL&W Station	Engineering	10/26/2017	\$7,764,556.12	Complete	Design
DL&W Station-rail work	Material	6/28/2018	\$2,336,774.00	Complete	Long Lead Items
DL&W Station-rail work	Construction	9/26/2019	\$27,087,788.05	Complete	Includes moving the rail crossover to support Cars Sharing Main Street
DL&W Station-non-rail interior work	Construction	10/28/2021	\$18,686,425.17	Underway (nearly complete)	Station is open. Stair tower and elevator on South Park Ave., delayed by Cobblestone fire, nearly complete.
DL&W Station-security system	Systems	12/9/2021	\$190,120.79	Complete	
DL&W Station Ticket Vending Machines	Systems	12/9/2021	\$308,711.02	Complete	
DL&W Shoreline Emergency Repair	Engineering	8/4/2022	\$391,658.00	Complete	Emergency Design
DL&W Shoreline Emergency Repair	Investigation	9/22/2022	\$165,794.50	Complete	Diving
DL&W Shoreline Emergency Repair	Material	1/26/2023	\$997,000.00	Complete	Sheet Piles
DL&W Shoreline Emergency Repair	Construction	3/23/2023	\$4,539,845.00	Complete	
DL&W Shoreline Emergency Repair	Engineering	3/23/2023	\$382,153.59	Complete	Permanent Design
DL&W Core and Shell - Phase 1 & 2, roof rehab.	Engineering	6/22/2023	\$3,906,614.78	Underway	Design
DL&W Station Public Art	Art	4/24/2024	\$266,901.00	Complete	
DL&W Parking Lot	Construction	5/23/2024	\$65,163.84	Complete	
DL&W Riverwalk	Engineering	10/31/2024	\$453,634.00	Underway	Design
DL&W Roof	Construction	12/12/2024	\$2,358,573.36	Complete	
DL&W Shoreline Rehabilitation	Engineering	7/25/2024	\$1,240,821.24	Complete	Design
DL&W Shoreline Rehabilitation	Construction	6/26/2025	\$26,089,806.00	Underway	
DL&W Shoreline Rehabilitation	Engineering	6/26/2025	\$1,476,215.43	Underway	Construction Monitoring & Design Support
DL&W Core & Shell Phase 1	Construction	7/24/2025	\$22,944,355.69	Underway (elements nearly complete)	Second floor deck and its access, including truck elevator anticipated for October completion. Bridge to arena under construction, scheduled for 2027 completion.

Total: \$121,652,911.58















