

## Long Island council unveils 16 priority projects

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The [Long Island Regional Economic Development Council](#) has selected 16 projects out of 200 that applied for funding as priorities for the region.

Priority projects, the term replacing last year's transformative projects, will compete for a pot of money separate from the rest of the \$785 million that the state has made available for its 2012 round of regional economic development council funding.

The Long Island council is seeking \$31 million for its 16 priority projects, although the state has said only \$25 million will be available for winning regions.

[After being awarded a best plan group](#) in the 2011 inaugural round of funding and receiving \$101.6 million, Long Island will now compete against the three other winning regions for \$25 million. The two regions with the best priority projects will each receive \$25 million from the state for these projects, while the other two regions will receive only \$5 million each.

The other six regions will compete against each other for similar pots of money. Consolidated Funding Application funds and Excelsior jobs money will still be divided up among the 10 regions in a straight competitive format.

Long Island Association President and council Co-Chairman Kevin Law welcomed the competition change.

"With two out of four winning, I certainly like those odds," Law said. "I'm optimistic about our odds."

The 16 priority projects include:

- The creation of a smart grid infrastructure on Long Island;
- Adding a third building to the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park;
- The construction of an \$80 million, 94,000-square-foot Winthrop-University Hospital medical research and education facility;
- The creation of a center for biomedicine on the campus of Stony Brook University;
- Infrastructure improvements at the Ronkonkoma Hub;
- Continued funding for Wyandanch Rising;
- Developing a mixed use project on the site of the former United Artists Theater in Coram, now known as Wincoram Commons;
- Improving the sewer system in Hempstead Village;
- Creating a mixed-use committee at the Meadows at Yaphank;
- Expanding the Brookhaven Rail Terminal by constructing a 500,000-square foot refrigerated warehouse;
- The construction of 225,000 square feet of hangar space and 72,000 square feet of office space at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, to be run by SheltAir;



Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy attended the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council meeting Thursday.

- Commercial fishing infrastructure improvements for Montauk East and Inlet Seafood;
- Creating STEM initiatives at Hofstra University, Adelphi University and Molloy College;
- Fostering the generation of more engineers on Long Island by having Farmingdale State College and the New York Institute for Technology develop their own ENGINE initiative, pioneered last year by Stony Brook University; and
- Business investments at several local companies including Quality King Distributing, Hampton Transportation, Hampton Jitney, HF Corwin and Son, and Satur Farms.

In addition to the change in competition, the regional council also adopted a change to its strategic plan to allow it to submit properties as regionally significant projects, regardless of what is built there.

Six properties on Long Island were given this designation: Belmont Park, the Nassau Hub, Glen Cove Harbor, the Cerro Wire property in Oyster Bay, the Shoreham power plant and EPCAL in Calverton. The regional council will not dictate what gets built at each of these sites, but will advocate that something be done there.

The amount of funding each project is seeking will be released Friday.

Along with the 16 priority projects, 11 CFA applications were submitted for \$13 million in Excelsior jobs funds and 73 projects were selected for the remaining pot of CFA cash. In total 200 CFA applications were submitted to the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, of which only 115 were selected to be part of the council's formal submission to the state.

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