



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. LINDSAY R. LORIGO
10TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

July 31, 2025

Commissioner Daniel Castle, Executive Director Melissa Hartman
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Commissioner Castle and Director Hartman,

It has been more than five years since the 2019 announcement of the ErieNet middle-mile broadband network. To date, not a single residential home in my district has received service. The delays, lack of clear timelines, and non-committal answers given during the mid-year budget hearings have only increased concerns about the viability of this project and its long-term cost to taxpayers.

Taxpayers deserve direct answers to the following questions:

- How many miles of middle-mile cable have been installed to date, and in which municipalities has it been placed?
- What portion of the installed network is currently operational?
- How much money has been spent to date on the project?
- How much of that total has been spent on the purchase and storage of materials and equipment?
- What is the estimated annual cost to maintain and repair the ErieNet system once operational?
- What specific maintenance and repair plans are in place for the system?
- Is Erie County currently in active negotiations with any service providers to build the final mile needed to deliver service to homes and businesses?
- How many providers are involved in those negotiations?
- Is the project currently on budget for construction costs?
- Have there been any overruns or areas where costs are trending higher than budgeted?
- Have contractual deadlines or milestones been missed?
- Have any contracts with ECC Technologies been amended to reflect delays?
- Has the County identified any barriers that could prevent the project from being completed as designed?
- When will the Legislature receive an updated business plan that reflects the current status of the project?

The projected cost of ErieNet has already nearly doubled since 2019. The completion date has been pushed back repeatedly. The County Executive stated that construction would begin in September 2022 or early 2023, but work did not begin until this year. Even now, estimates suggest that only 75 miles will be installed by the end of August, well short of what is required to deliver service.

The explanation that “red tape” is to blame has been offered for years. This is not an acceptable answer. The Local Development Corporation was created to avoid those delays, not to be stalled by them.

The public has invested heavily in this project and deserves transparency. I request that your written response to these questions be provided so it can be entered into the Legislature’s record. I will also be requesting a formal committee meeting to review the answers.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Lorigo
Erie County Legislator – District 10

cc: Legislature Chairman Timothy Meyers
Legislator Taisha St. Jean Tard