

Thank you, Governor! This is an exciting day for Tompkins County and for the entire region. Without your leadership and vision, we would not be here today. Thank you for your commitment to listening to the needs of the community and making incredibly good things happen.

I need to also thank your wonderful staff – Kelly Cummings, Cathy Calhoun, Paul Karas and others at NYSDOT, Letizia Tagliafierro, and Kara Grippen, for their help and support. Thank you for listening to us.

Today is all about the **future** of our growing county – but first we must go **back** – more than 20 years.

It's been **that long** since Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca have been working with the DOT to move the Ithaca residency from our waterfront.

I won't go **all** the way back to the 1990's to list everyone who's worked on this project, but counting the last 10 or so years we have to thank:

- From Tompkins County, Barbara Blanchard, former County Legislator; Ed Marx, former Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability, and Joe Mareane, former County Administrator
- From the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, Jean McPheeters and Jennifer Tavares
- From Tompkins County Area Development, Michael Stamm and Martha Armstrong
- From the City of Ithaca, JoAnn Cornish, Nels Bohn, and Herman Sieverding
- From DOT, Eric Buck and David Smith
- From the State Legislature, Senator Pam Helming; thank you so much for being here today. And Senators Tom O'Mara and Jim Seward, who've been so helpful along the way with the DOT. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton has also supported this effort.

NYS **also** helped by funding a Feasibility Study on Redevelopment of the DOT site in 2016. The study showed what we could create – a vibrant, mixed-use waterfront district, with housing (which we desperately need!), commercial spaces, a restaurant, possibly a hotel.

Today the site is valued at \$2.5 million, because it's valued based on its current use. The estimated value at full build out is **\$43** million. This will be *truly transformative*.

So, everyone agreed that the DOT should move – but where? It took our Airport Manager, Mike Hall, to solve that problem. Mike was the catalyst here!

When Governor Cuomo announced the Upstate Airport Initiative competition, he called on Upstate communities to envision the airport of tomorrow. With his typical energy, Mike Hall pulled together the Air Service Board, TCAD, Cornell University, Roxann Noble, Josh Nalley, and C&S Engineers, and they created the vision for the airport expansion that you've seen today.

The transformation of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport will give us the innovative, world-class airport we need and deserve:

- for nearly 30,000 Cornell, Ithaca College, and TC3 students and their families, who come from every corner of the U.S. and from 115 different countries;
- for the 80 companies with 2,000 employees in Cornell's Business and Technology Park;
- for our growing advanced manufacturing sector – for access to their supply chain, their strategic business partners, and venture capital; and
- for the thousands of visitors who come here every year, to enjoy the incredible beauty and culture of Tompkins County.

But Mike's vision went beyond the terminal – all the way downtown to the DOT facility on the waterfront. He saw what could be done on airport land, to create a 21st century residency for the DOT as well as to open up the waterfront for the community. And so, we celebrate that transformation as well.

But that's not all. That's a lot, but it's not all. We're also proud to celebrate that our airport will exemplify Governor Cuomo's vision for a sustainable future. The airport has collaborated with Cayuga Solar to submit a proposal to NYSEG, which they submitted this Tuesday, to heat and cool the expanded airport with geothermal heat pumps, supported by solar power and battery storage.

If our proposal is successful with NYSEG, *Ithaca-Tompkins will be the airport that runs on solar*. Projections are that our annual energy costs will be cut by \$50,000 even though the facility will be 30% larger. And there is potential for a microgrid connecting the entire Cornell Business and Technology Park, including five buildings owned by Tompkins County, to transition off of gas to geothermal supported by solar.

We **can** provide the clean energy we need to grow, and **we will**, starting right here. This grant makes this possible.

Governor Cuomo: Thank you for your leadership that has inspired this collaboration, and thank you for investing the State's resources in Tompkins County's future. Please consider this an invitation back for those three ribbon-cuttings!

Today we are celebrating what can happen when local and state governments work together; when the public and private sectors work together; when problem-solvers and visionaries put their hands and dreams together.

And we know great things happen when Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca work together! So it's now my pleasure to introduce one of our most frequent partners, the Mayor of Ithaca, Svante Myrick.