

Berlin Economic Development Commission State Assistance Recognition
Presented on April 2, 2014 by Mayor Rachel Rochette

The State of Connecticut has become an essential and active partner in Berlin's economic development efforts, therefore I am honored to recognize Governor Dannel Malloy for his leadership that has led directly to many important State economic development investments in Berlin. There are three areas in which Governor Malloy's economic development leadership particularly benefits Berlin; his recognition of the importance of job creation particularly by small and medium sized businesses (nearly 53,000 jobs were created in his first 3 years in office), his support for suburban and rural communities particularly in creating and strengthening Town Centers and his commitment to transit and to stimulating transit oriented development. In Berlin these policies have led to many State investments including;

- 11 Small business matching grants for a number of Berlin companies including The Music People, Powerhouse Gym and BioPellet.
- A Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant through the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) that is funding Berlin's downtown façade and landscape grant program with projects including CIL's completion of Depot Crossing and Good Cause Gift's façade remodeling.
- LOCIP grants through OPM for a number of economic development projects.
- A STEAP grant for phase II of Berlin Veterans Memorial Park through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).
- A major investment in the institution of commuter rail services to start on the New Haven/Hartford/Springfield line in 2016.
- A \$20+ million investment in the Berlin Train Station including the restoration of the historic train station, the construction of an up and over structure and the expansion of the train station parking to accommodate expected demand. This project is scheduled to be bid by Connecticut Department of Transportation this spring with construction starting later in the year.
- Brownfields grants through DECD to help revitalize 889 Farmington Avenue.
- A Main Street Fund Grant through the Department of Housing to fund Main Street streetscape improvements.
- Financing through the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund provided by Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for completion of Depot Crossing across from the Train Station as our first significant downtown mixed use project.

The one thing that most stands out to me is that the State's investments are targeted by Governor Malloy to support Berlin's downtown, transit oriented development around the Train Station. Progress will begin to be very visibly this year as multiple projects start in construction and this will demonstrate the advances that can be made when State and local plans and investments work in concert. We know that we have lots of work ahead to complete the transformation of the Train Station area but it is great to know that we have a partner in Governor Malloy investing in our community and urging us to advance our development projects in order to create jobs and enhance our community.

For all these reasons I gladly present the first award of the evening, our Economic Development Partnership award, to the Honorable Governor Dannel Malloy.