

# PEDA



PITTSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**NEWS & EVENTS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 15, 2011

Contact: Corydon Thurston  
Executive Director  
413-494-7332 o  
413-770-7922 c  
cthurston@williamstanleybp.com

## **Ownership of Woodlawn Avenue Transfers to PEDA**

**Pittsfield, MA** – Pittsfield Economic Development Authority’s (PEDA) Executive Director, Corydon Thurston, announced today that he and Michael Carroll, Manager of Environmental Programs at the General Electric Company (GE), have executed the closing documents necessary to transfer ownership of the southern portion of Woodlawn Avenue from GE to PEDA. “Today marks a significant milestone for the William Stanley Business Park, the city of Pittsfield and the surrounding neighborhoods,” said Thurston. “This is a giant first step in our quest to reopen this section of Woodlawn Avenue, from Kellogg Street to East Street, for through traffic and as an official city street.”

With Woodlawn Avenue and the bridge in public ownership, the state of Massachusetts can now allocate funds and work with PEDA to complete the project. “The next big hurdle we face is the reconstruction of the bridge over the CSX rail line,” said Thurston. As a result of an agreement between the state and CSX Railroad in 2006, the entire line between Worcester and Selkirk, NY was to be improved to provide clearance for the larger double-stacked containers to travel. In some cases the rail beds would be lowered, and in others, bridges would be rebuilt to a higher clearance. Currently, the plans for the Woodlawn Bridge include the removal of the bridge deck so that the abutments and span supports can be raised and a new deck installed.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) engineers are currently working on the final designs and PEDA is actively negotiating an access agreement with CSX for the removal of the span. “I have been assured that the state funding for the project is in place and will cover the entire cost, so I’m optimistic that we can complete the reconstruction by the spring of 2013,” said Thurston. That goal would coincide with the Phase II work on the Silver Lake remediation, which will require the closure of Silver Lake Boulevard. Thurston believes that all the parties involved realize the significance of this timeline and the importance of maintaining a convenient North – South access, especially for public safety responses while Silver Lake Blvd is closed. “Make no mistake,” Thurston emphasized, “this is a vital link for the business development of the William Stanley Business Park too and without it, tenants like Action Ambulance and other prospects we are in discussions with, will not be able to effectively do business from the PEDA site.”

“As a result of today’s land transfer, we’re moving forward and the finish line is finally in sight. That is great news for PEDA and great news for the City of Pittsfield,” Thurston concluded.