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**URA RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD
FOR EAST LIBERTY STATION TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT**

PITTSBURGH, PA (September 20, 2017) - The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) won a Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for the *East Liberty Station Transit Oriented Development (TOD)* project in the category of Sustainable and Green Development.

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 19, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held September 17-20, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“We are proud of the URA and our partners for winning this award and commend them for their commitment to sustainable development,” said Kevin Acklin, URA board chair and chief of staff to Mayor Peduto. “This award reinforces the fact that we can grow our tax base and promote economic development in Pittsburgh by investing in green infrastructure projects like this.”

The East Liberty Station TOD project transformed six acres of idle publicly-owned property into a state-of-the-art multimodal transit center, 360 multifamily housing units, a 554-space shared-use parking garage, a 120-space bike garage, and 43,000 square feet of retail space. By facilitating public transit use, this development type reduces dependence on fossil fuels, lowers residents’ transportation costs, eases congestion, improves safety, promotes walking/health, and improves environmental quality.

“The major goal of the project was to integrate station and site development and create stronger pedestrian connections between East Liberty and Shadyside,” said Robert Rubinstein, URA executive director. “The approach created healthy, connected neighborhoods that thrive from increased accessibility through public transit and decreased automobile dependence.”

Rubinstein continued, “The East Liberty Station TOD is a success thanks to the teamwork of our many partners, including The Mosites Company, the Port Authority, the community, philanthropy, and local and State taxing bodies.”

In 2013, the Eastside TOD and Transit Center property had an assessed value of \$1.8 million. The property was reassessed in 2017 with a value of \$52.5 million. The increase of \$50.7 million in assessed value has resulted in the City, County, and Pittsburgh Public Schools receiving an additional one million dollars every year in tax revenues.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to the URA. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now

use as a benchmark,” said Michael Langley, FM, CEO of GREATER MSP, Minneapolis–St. Paul, MN, and 2017 IEDC Board Chair

The IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants. We look forward to next year's awards competition,” Langley said.

About the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA)

The [URA](#) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base, and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing, and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.

About the International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

The [IEDC](#) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions.

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