

# *New York State Bridge Authority*



# *2004 Annual Report*



# NYS Bridge Authority Board Members

## James P. Sproat, Chairman



James P. Sproat, appointed as a Commissioner to the New York State Bridge Authority Board by Governor George E. Pataki in 1999, became Chairman of the Board in May 2004. He has a long history of community service. Mr. Sproat is a licensed real estate broker specializing in commercial real estate and holds the Certified Commercial Investment Member professional designation. He is presently employed by the Division of Real Estate Planning & Development with the Office of General Services. He has also been an active member of the Dutchess County community for many years including service on many not-for-profit boards and served as a member of the Dutchess County Legislature.

James P. Sproat is a resident of the Town of Beekman in Dutchess County, where he resides with his wife, Christine, and their two children.

Mr. Sproat's appointment is through January 2009.

---

## Roderick O. Dressel, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Dressel was appointed to the New York State Bridge Authority Board by Governor George E. Pataki in 1997. In May 2004, he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. Dressel is a businessman residing in Ulster County.



## David A. Teator, Commissioner



Commissioner Teator, appointed to fill a vacancy on the Authority's Board in March 2002, was reappointed to a 5-year term in 2003.

Mr. Teator is employed by the New York State Department of Correctional Services as Supervisor of Audio-Visual Training & Production. He graduated cum laude from Marist College with a degree in Communication Arts.

Mr. Teator and his family reside in Columbia County where he is active in many sport and community organizations.

---

## Walter A. Paradies, Commissioner

Mr. Walter A. Paradies was appointed to the Authority's Board by Governor Pataki in 2004. Mr. Paradies holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A native of New Paltz, Mr. Paradies spent his career in construction and engineering and has overseen many major public sector construction projects.

Mr. Paradies has been active in many community endeavors having served on the New Paltz Town Board, the New Paltz Planning Board, the New Paltz School Board, and he presently serves as Treasurer of the New Paltz Rural Cemetery.



# NYS Bridge Authority Management

## George C. Sinnott - Executive Director



Governor George E. Pataki announced that George C. Sinnott was named Executive Director of the New York State Bridge Authority in 2004. He will oversee the management and operation of five major bridges carrying nearly 60 million vehicles annually across the Hudson River.

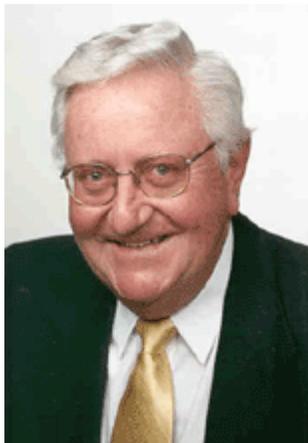
“Commissioner Sinnott is an outstanding public administrator, having served the people of New York State with distinction as Commissioner of Civil Service for the last nine years,” Governor Pataki said. “I am pleased that George will now be a key member of our transportation initiative team to help coordinate the management of the state’s transportation agencies and authorities. The Bridge Authority will benefit immensely from his tremendous experience.”

Sinnott, who has served as Commissioner of the state Department of Civil Service since 1995, is the recipient of numerous awards, including the National Public Service Award from the American Society for Public Administration and the Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Public Service from the State Academy of Public Administration. In 1998, *Governing* magazine selected Sinnott as Public Official of the Year for his successful turnaround of the Civil Service Department. Sinnott is a Vietnam veteran and earned his Master’s Degree in Industrial Relations from Vermont College.

As Chief Operating Officer of the State Bridge Authority, Sinnott has served as a strategic partner with the state Department of Transportation and the Thruway Authority, in an alliance to more efficiently move people and goods throughout the State’s transportation system.

Sinnott was appointed to the new position by the Bridge Authority Board, following his recommendation by Governor Pataki.

## James Bresnan, Deputy Executive Director



**James Bresnan**, a lifelong resident of Orange County, had a distinguished career as an executive with IBM, where he retired from in 1990.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Executive Director, he held consulting positions at IBM and the Garden State Paper Company.

A resident of New Windsor, Mr. Bresnan is married with four children.

---

## John Sewell, Treasurer

**John Sewell** serves as Treasurer and as the Authority's Director Finance. Prior to joining the Bridge Authority in 1975, he was an accountant in the private sector.

A graduate of Seton Hall University with a B.S. in Business Administration, Mr. Sewell is a native of Poughkeepsie where he resides with his wife and daughter.



## William Moreau, P.E., Chief Engineer



**William Moreau, P.E.**, has been the Chief Engineer for the New York State Bridge Authority since 1987.

Active in many professional organizations, Mr. Moreau is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Association for Bridge Construction & Design, the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Mr. Moreau is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is a resident of the Town of LaGrange where he resides with his family.

---



## Robert Russo, Administration

**Robert Russo** serves the New York State Bridge Authority as Director of Administrative Services. He has been with the Bridge Authority in various capacities since 1983.

Mr. Russo is a 1983 graduate of Potsdam College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics.

He is a lifelong resident of Highland with his wife and three children.



---

## Thomas M. Cavallino, Information Technology

**Thomas M. Cavallino** came to the Authority in March 2002 as the Director of Information Technology. A graduate of Niagara University with a B.A. degree, Mr. Cavallino brought the benefit of over 26 years of experience in service to New York State agencies to the Bridge Authority.

He was involved in the operation, planning, design and implementation of communication and computer systems for the NYS Thruway Authority and the NYS Office of Mental Retardation. Mr. Cavallino oversees all aspects of the Bridge Authority's information technology services.

He and his family reside in New Baltimore.



---

## Mark E. Sheedy, Public Relations & Planning

**Mark E. Sheedy** was appointed Director of Planning and Public Relations in 2000. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Sheedy was a non-technical writer for a large civil engineering firm in upstate New York before entering the insurance industry in 1977.

He attended the State University of New York at Oswego and earned a B.A. in Education with a concentration in English.

He served Dutchess County with distinction from 1992 through 2003 on the Dutchess County Legislature, four of those years as Majority Leader of that body. He has a broad record of community service in many volunteer organizations in the Town of Hyde Park where he makes his home.



# Barbara Haywood, Human Resources



**Barbara Haywood** is the Authority's Director of Human Resources. Ms. Haywood joined the Bridge Authority in 2000. She previously worked for Columbia County as Director of Personnel.

A resident of Columbia County, Ms. Haywood has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and a Masters in Public Administration - Personnel from Marist College.



# Rip Van Winkle Bridge



Photo courtesy of Chuck Gentilquore, NYSBA Toll Electrician

The Rip Van Winkle Bridge underwent major changes in construction with a toll plaza demolition and rebuild project, which was completed in late 2003. This reconstruction project, designed by Foit-Albert Associates, was awarded by the American Public Works Association as one of its *“Projects of the Year”*.



Bill Moreau, Bridge Authority Chief Engineer, accepts the award given to the Bridge Authority from the American Public Works Association.



Before & After





The maintenance crew at Rip Van Winkle painted the entire bottom south truss cord of the bridge.

After construction of the new toll plaza ended, extensive landscaping projects took over to visually enhance the surrounding area.



Included in this process was construction of a sidewalk from the toll plaza to the bridge office, providing safe access to the walkway for walkers who approached the bridge from Catskill.



# Kingston - Rhinecliff Bridge



The Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge and its surroundings saw major developments in 2004. Aside from the regular maintenance at this facility, the maintenance crew at Kingston found themselves immersed in other projects that only added to the beauty that already exists in the Kingston – Rhinecliff area.

---

Beginning in March, the old paint was stripped down to the metal under a state-of-the-art containment for environmental protection to keep any residue from falling into the river. After months of reviewing contracts from various contractors, Aulson Painting of Massachusetts was awarded the contract, saving the Bridge Authority approximately \$6 million. This project is slated for completion in spring of 2006.



# Mid - Hudson Bridge



The Mid-Hudson Bridge has seen several small projects in 2004.

Nearly the entire length of the bottom chord/floorbeam of the bridge was painted by the maintenance crew at Mid-Hudson during the climbing season.

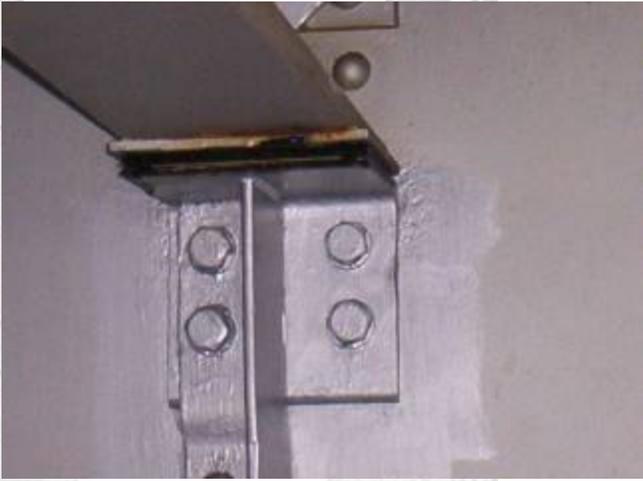


Before



After





In addition to the painting, all stringer seats (at expansion ends) were greased. There is a lot of movement between the stringers and seats during the passage of heavy traffic and temperature changes. This movement can create wear, but greasing them prevents that.

At the east side of the Mid-Hudson Bridge toll plaza, frost upheaval caused areas in the roadway to move upward, resulting in a bumpy ride for motorists. The pavement was milled to smooth the roadway for our patrons.



This milling project, estimated to cost \$12,000 or more if performed by an outside contractor, was performed in-house to save the Authority the expense.



# Newburgh - Beacon Bridge



In September 2004, the Bridge Authority Board approved the addition of two new toll lanes at this facility. With one of the biggest projects to hit the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge underway since the addition of the second span, the Bridge Authority has implemented and maintained important aspects of patron safety across the bridge. Specifically, changes were made to the right hand lane on the westbound span. It is closed to traffic for approximately 20 hours a day and converted to a breakdown lane for disabled vehicles, easily enabling it to become an enhanced safety motorist corridor. The eastbound span has had a breakdown lane for disabled vehicles since its opening in 1980.

---

The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge paint barn is believed to date back to the mid-1800's. Today the paint barn is used as a wood shop and for storage of equipment such as spiders, signs and compressors.



← before  
after →



Due to its serious decay, the roof needed to be replaced. Three layers of shingles and a layer of rotted plywood were removed and replaced. In addition to replacing the roof, all shed dormers were replaced with peaked roofs and new flashing was placed around the perimeter. This was performed in-house, saving the Bridge Authority approximately \$100,000 if it had been completed by outside contractors.

---



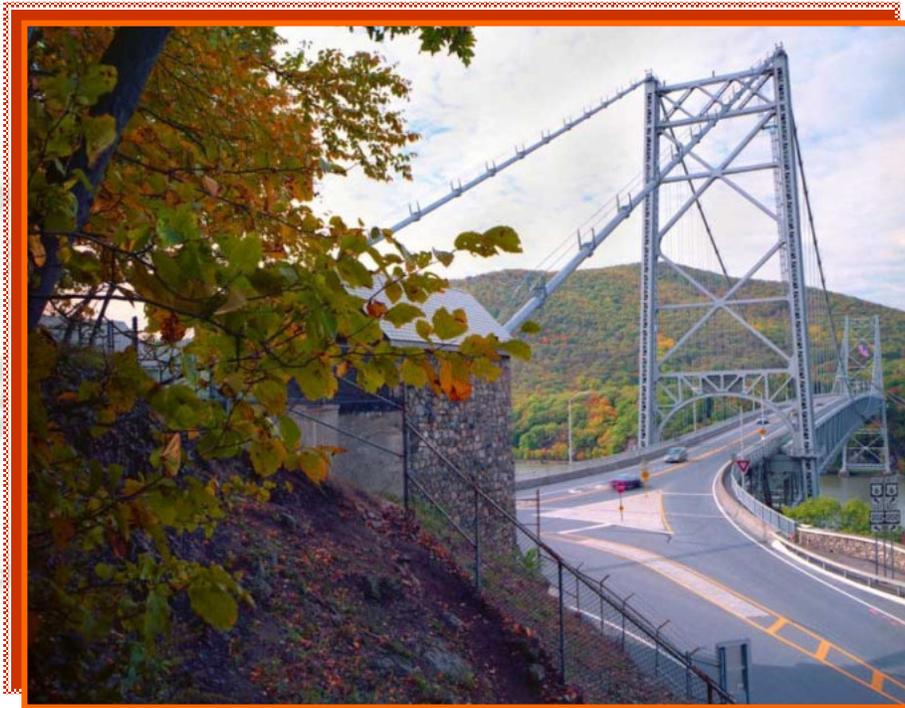
Maintenance completed extensive concrete patch work on both spans of Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.



Deteriorated concrete deck sections were saw-cut, jack-hammered, cleaned and patched with a rapid setting concrete. All work was carefully scheduled to avoid disruptions to rush-hour traffic.



# Bear Mountain Bridge



The Bear Mountain Bridge turned 80 years old on November 26, 2004

One could never tell by looking at the bridge that it just celebrated 80 years of safe crossings between Rockland/Orange and Putnam/Westchester counties. From May to mid-October, the Bridge Authority maintenance crew scraped and painted all 126 main span suspender cables to match the newly painted bridge.



From May to mid-September all cable band bolts were tightened. In 1997, this project was estimated to cost \$200,000 if it had been completed by an outside contractor.



# Systemwide and Community Involvement

## Project CENTS

The New York State Bridge Authority has completed installation of “Project CENTS” (Cutting Edge NYSBA Toll System) in all five of its bridge toll plazas. This was the first major toll system upgrade in nine years. Little of the system is visible to bridge patrons with the exception of new patron fare displays (PFDs), which convey well-lit messages or instructions to motorists in the lanes. Also, the stainless steel towers on the sides of each lane are a new feature enabling the Authority to digitally record vehicle configurations passing through the lane.



From the motorist’s perspective, the greatest advantage of Project CENTS is the Authority’s ability to convert individual toll lanes from one status, Closed, Full-Service, or Dedicated E-ZPass, to another status at a moments notice. Additionally, the Authority is now capable of offering Dedicated E-ZPass lanes at all of its facilities. When the third lane is completed next year at the Kingston facility, a Dedicated E-ZPass lane will be offered on a 24/7 basis, enhancing its limited availability now.

These two photos, taken within moments of one another, show how quickly the lane status can be changed.



The Mid-Hudson Bridge and Newburgh-Beacon toll plazas have always had dedicated E-ZPass. The Rip Van Winkle Bridge and Bear Mountain Bridge toll plazas have offered Dedicated E-ZPass only recently.

The total cost of the “Project CENTS” development and installation was \$1.1 million and with the exception of two consultants, all work was done in-house by staff of the Authority’s Information Technology Department under the leadership of Thomas M. Cavallino, Director of Information Technology.

“By developing and completing this project utilizing the talents of in-house staff, we have saved approximately 50% of the cost of the job had it been completely contracted out,” stated George C. Sinnott, Executive Director. “This is truly a credit to the caliber of people working for us in the area of Intelligent Transportation Systems. Patrons utilizing E-ZPass will, no doubt, appreciate the convenience offered through dedicated E-ZPass lanes at all of our toll facilities,” he added.

E-ZPass was first installed in Bridge Authority facilities in 1998 and has grown from 10% of bridge traffic at that time to highs of 65% of rush hour traffic. During other hours of the day, about 50% of the Authority’s toll transactions are conducted electronically using E-ZPass.

---

**Moody’s Investors Service** informed the New York State Bridge Authority that it has reaffirmed its Aa2 rating of Authority bonds. “This is the highest bond rating earned by any transportation agency or authority in the nation,” Bridge Authority Chairman James P. Sproat said. Confirming a “stable outlook” on its outstanding debt and long term revenue projections, Moody’s says the rating reflects the Authority’s “stable financial position”, “maintenance of capital assets” and “strong legal provisions”.

Moody’s reports that looking forward “The outlook is stable, reflecting consistent operating and financial performance and strong management”.

George C. Sinnott, Executive Director of the Authority said the news was gratifying. “The confidence expressed by Moody’s is wonderful to hear and a tremendous statement of support for the financial management of the authority and the attention given to the assets entrusted to our care,” stated Sinnott.

---

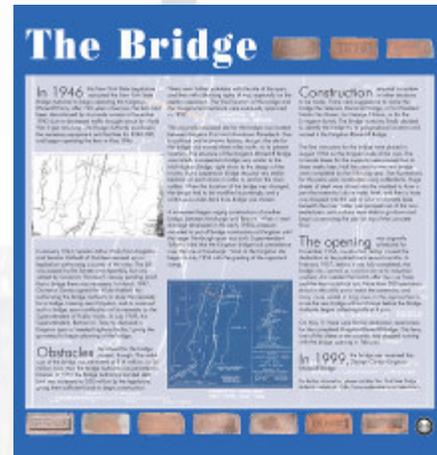
The New York State Bridge Authority was notified by **the State Insurance Fund** that due to its exceptional safety record, a 40 percent premium discount would be reflected on the renewal of its Worker’s Compensation Insurance Policy. Historically, the Authority has enjoyed a very low frequency of claims from worker injuries.

This positive loss experience is a direct result of the attention by Authority management to worker training and safety programs and the cooperation of Authority employees in complying with safe workplace practices. Chief Engineer Bill Moreau stated, “Safety is no accident. It is forefront on the minds of everyone working here. It’s important that everyone is properly trained and outfitted with the best safety equipment available. Fortunately, our record reflects this attention to detail in our operations.”

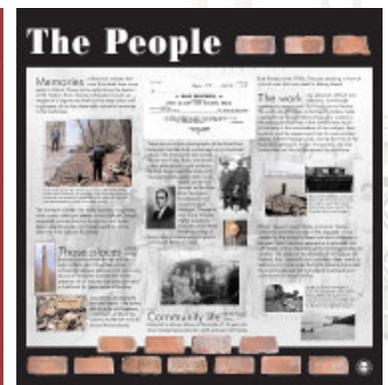
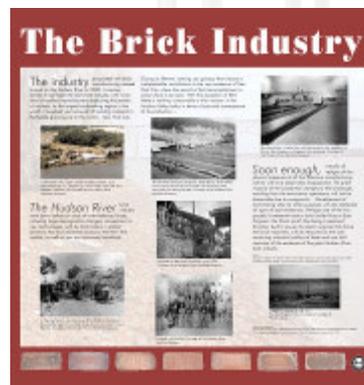


# Kiosk in the Park

In cooperation with the Town of Ulster, the Bridge Authority constructed a kiosk highlighting the history of brick manufacturing on the banks of the Hudson River in the East Kingston area. The Kiosk is located in Charles Ryder Park, situated south of the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge.



Completed on October 31, 2004, the kiosk provides information to visitors, and neighbors alike, about the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, the brick industry and the people that made it all possible.



101.5 WPDH radio personality, Gary Cee, made his way over to the Mid-Hudson Bridge and into a toll booth with collector, Bea Sala. He wasn't in training; he was paying for the first 101 bridge patrons that drove through the plaza one May morning.



# Events and Tours

Each year the Bridge Authority has the honor of hosting the **YMCA Annual 5K Bridge Run**. 2004 marked the 23rd year runners have raced across the Mid-Hudson Bridge.



Monies raised each year are applied to scholarships for children to attend the camp program at the YMCA.



Phyllis Montanari of the Fishkill Health Center has brought residents out to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge for the second time this year.

When nice weather comes our way it is not surprising to see our bridges with walkways adorned with many sightseers, exercisers, and this past year, we even had a bridal party!

