

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT PER SECTION 2800 OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW
OPERATIONS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN
YEAR ENDED 12/31/17**

The mission of the New York State Bridge Authority is to maintain and operate the vehicle crossings of the Hudson River entrusted to its jurisdiction for the economic and social benefit of the people of the State. The Authority will maintain the vehicular bridges and related infrastructure in good condition for the benefit of the travelling public, provide for long-term financial stability of the Authority, and do so at the lowest cost consistent with long term safety and stability. The Authority will provide for accountability and transparency in its operations.

In 2017, as in previous years, the Authority continued to meet this mission as it operated six superstructures, with a replacement value over \$2.0 billion, together with their ancillary facilities, at one of the lowest tolls in the nation for a self-supporting transportation entity. In fact, since it came into existence 85 years ago, the Authority has raised tolls only three times in its history. In January 2012, the most recent toll schedule revision, the Authority's round-trip base toll was \$1.50 for cash customers and \$1.25 for E-ZPass customers, both lower than the toll charged for the first crossing in 1933.

Maintaining the bridge system, which averages 76 years of age, requires constant monitoring and care. Given the proper maintenance, these spans have an indefinite lifespan. To that end, the Bridge Authority's capital improvement program is driven by annual bridge inspections conducted by independent engineers. Each year three vehicular bridges receive in-depth detailed biennial inspections that meet or exceed the criteria of both federal and state mandatory bridge inspection programs. The inspectors also do a thorough, but less intensive, inspection of the other three vehicular bridges to review the maintenance work done since the last biennial inspection and to identify changing conditions that may require an immediate response.

The Authority ended 2017 with a small traffic increase despite a return to normal winter weather patterns and the leap year in 2016. Year over year traffic growth of .4 million vehicles or 0.58%. Despite this growth the mix of traffic resulted in decreased revenues of \$0.2 million, or -0.28%. Given the traffic growth since the last toll schedule revision from \$54.8 million in 2013, the first full year of the current toll schedule, revenue of \$58.8 million in 2017 has helped the Authority's overall financial position and increased the longevity of the current toll schedule.

The Authority began the direct sales of E-ZPass in full service toll lanes in 2013 at each of the toll plazas. In 2017 the Authority executed a radio media campaign to further awareness of the benefits of E-ZPass and encourage E-ZPass utilization. The additional convenience of buying a tag at the booth has been very successful with the Authority selling 42,716 tags since inception. While by itself it is difficult to evaluate the incremental E-ZPass utilization attributable to this initiative, the Authority continues to see increased E-ZPass utilization throughout 2017 with overall utilization of 74% for the full year.

In 2016 The Skywalk Construction Project grant (CFA 2016) administered by the NYS Department of State awarded \$460,000 to the Authority. This project is for the construction of three 'bump outs' along the Rip Van Winkle Bridge sidewalk where pedestrians will be able to stop, sit, and enjoy the view that was the impetus for the Hudson River School of Art also known as the "birthplace of American art". The Authority completed major construction in 2017 as part of a larger project that establishes "Hudson River Skywalk: Connecting Art, History, and Landscape" as a destination-providing economic benefits to the region and also create amongst residents an enhanced sense of regional pride. The initiative establishes a pedestrian trail across the Rip Van Winkle (RVW) Bridge connecting the Village of Catskill, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site (TCNHS) in Catskill and the Olana State Historic Site in Greenport. This project is within the mission of the New York State Bridge Authority to promote the cultural awareness and significance of the Hudson Valley Region.

In 2017, Standard & Poor's affirmed the AA- long term rating on the Authority's outstanding general revenue bonds with a stable outlook. Moody's Investors Service in 2016 assigned an Aa3 rating to the Series 2012 General Revenue Bonds and affirmed the rating for the Aa3 parity bond rating with a stable outlook.