

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT PER SECTION 2800 OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW
OPERATIONS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN
YEAR ENDED 12/31/06**

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.

In 2006, the Authority continued to meet this mission as it operated six superstructures, with a replacement value over \$1.2 billion, together with their ancillary facilities at one of the lowest tolls anywhere. In fact, since it came into existence 75 years ago, the Authority has raised tolls only twice and its basic \$1.00 round trip automobile rate is actually lower than that charged for the first crossing in 1933.

In terms of maintaining these bridges, which now average 59 years of age, there is a need for constant monitoring and care. Given the proper maintenance, these spans have an indefinite lifetime. To that end, the Bridge Authority's capital improvement program is driven by annual bridge inspections conducted by independent engineers. Each year three bridges get 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 bridges to review the maintenance work done since the last biennial inspection and to identify changing conditions that may require an immediate response.

Major bridge projects completed in 2006 included: \$1.5 million for critical location tack weld removal on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge; \$2.8 million for west approach highway rehabilitation and deck replacement of the Route 9W overpass at the Mid-Hudson Bridge; \$1.7 million for sealing and approach paving of the North Span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge; and \$1.4 million for Bear Mountain Bridge main cable strengthening.

In the first quarter of 2007, Moody's Investors Service recognized the low toll rates and bridge conditions when it reaffirmed the Bridge Authority as one of only three toll funded government transportation agencies in the country to receive an Aa2 rating on its outstanding bonds.