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For Immediate Release: December 11, 2017

**BRIDGE AUTHORITY EXPANDS FIBER LEASING
NEW CONTRACTS ADD \$868K OVER 10 YEARS**

The NYS Bridge Authority will lease dark fiber optic services over one of its bridges for the next 10 years, generating over \$868 thousand dollars and providing a supplement to its tolling revenue.

“The dark fiber leasing program is one of several creative ways the Bridge Authority supports its maintenance activities and day-to-day operations,” Executive Director Joseph Ruggiero said. “These dark fiber leases help the bottom line and while they will never replace tolls as a principal source of revenue, they do help off-set costs.”

Authority Chairman Richard A. Gerentine said “The dark fiber leasing program is in its seventh year and has been a tremendous success. Using the assets of the Bridge Authority in a creative way to generate revenue is an ongoing effort. We will continue to explore more of these opportunities to off-set costs even further.”

“This year alone we’ll generate over \$100,000 in new revenue and have built-in recurring revenue of more than \$400,000 per year for the next several years,” Ruggiero added.

Since 2011, the Bridge Authority has executed fiber optic leases totaling \$3,637,253.

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, a gas and electricity utility provider that covers the Mid-Hudson Valley, is leasing a fiber crossing on the Mid-Hudson Bridge for \$340,351.96 over ten-years.

QCSTelecom Inc., a provider of dark fiber services in the Mid-Hudson Valley, is leasing a fiber crossing on the Mid-Hudson Bridge for \$528,000.00 over ten-years.

In addition to the Mid-Hudson Bridge, the Bridge Authority has dark fiber crossings on the Bear Mountain Bridge, Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

The \$1.25 passenger vehicle toll for E-ZPass customers on all Authority bridges is among the lowest nationwide for self-supporting transportation agencies. Tolls are actually lower today, in real dollars, than they were in 1933 when the Authority began operations.

- 30 -

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