



Contact:

John Bellucci | jbellucci@nysba.ny.gov | (845) 691-7245

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2015

NEW DARK FIBER LEASE NETS BRIDGE AUTHORITY \$535K

The NYS Bridge Authority will lease 48 stands of existing dark fiber optic cable over the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge to QCSTelecom, Inc. for a one-time fee of \$535,260. The lease was arranged by Broadband Consulting Services of Poughkeepsie, NY.

The fee covers a 10-year lease and will allow QCSTelecom to cross the Hudson River in a cost-efficient manner as it develops a regional telecommunications network for data transmission.

“This lease will boost our total revenue for dark fiber leases to over \$2 million for the Authority,” Executive Director Joseph Ruggiero said. “I’m particularly pleased that, since we’ve already paid for the infrastructure costs at the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge through previous leases, the full amount of this payment will be available to help maintain and operate our facilities.”

Authority Chairman Richard A. Gerentine said “Using the Authority’s unique assets to promote business development and generate non-toll revenue is not only a smart move, but necessary to help keep tolls down. With its size scaled to move quickly and our hands on approach to opportunities, the Bridge Authority is able take on these types of projects that provide a real benefit to residents of the Hudson Valley.”

Gerentine noted that these types of revenue will never replace tolls necessary for major projects, but revenue from fiber optic leases and the Authority’s advertising program all help the bottom line.

“Our mission is to provide safe and reliable bridges for our residents and travelers. We do not receive state or federal tax money for the maintenance and operation of these bridges so anything we can responsibly do to keep tolls down is good policy,” Ruggiero said.

The Bridge Authority built additional capacity in its fiber optic network on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge in 2013. “The real cost is in constructing the fiber plant in the first place. Adding additional capacity is a very small cost that is yielding substantial rewards,” Ruggiero added.

The NYS Bridge Authority operates the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon, Mid-Hudson, Kingston-Rhinecliff and Rip Van Winkle bridges.

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 -

For all of the latest news, business opportunities, and Authority updates please follow us on Twitter at @NYSBridge (<https://twitter.com/#!/NYSBridge>). You can also find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com) by searching for the “New York State Bridge Authority.”