



**Contacts:**

Christopher Steber | (845) 691-7245 | [csteber@nysba.ny.gov](mailto:csteber@nysba.ny.gov)

Heather Pillsworth | (845) 431-7911  
Hudson Valley Region Press Office | [heather.pillsworth@dot.ny.gov](mailto:heather.pillsworth@dot.ny.gov)

MTA Press Office | (212) 878-7440

**For Immediate Release: June 10, 2024**

\*Photos available via [Dropbox](#).\*

## **NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES HOST INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

*Bridge Authority, DOT, and MTA Welcome Delegation to Various Sites in Hudson Valley and New York City*

Multiple transportation agencies in New York hosted an international technical exchange this week with a delegation of civil engineers and officials from the Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC) between June 3 and 7. Major focuses of the visit were on engineering, climate resiliency, emergency response, and preventive maintenance measures. The delegation visited locations around the Hudson Valley and New York City that are maintained and operated by the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA), the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Presentations and visits were also provided to showcase the work of regional public safety partners.

In November 2023, the Dominican Republic experienced devastating infrastructure damage as a result of record rainfall and storm water runoff. New York State knows first-hand the devastating impact of natural disasters and has committed to being a leader in infrastructure resiliency, continuously raising the bar through our investment in critical infrastructure. Through Governor Kathy Hochul's commitment to this effort, New York continuously supports and shares its expertise with partners across the world. This allows international experts to see firsthand how state agencies like DOT, Bridge Authority, and MTA Bridges and Tunnels have incorporated construction and maintenance practices designed to withstand the effects of extreme weather due to climate change.

Highlights from the visit included:

- NYSBA provided technical tours of their two highest-traveled spans in the Hudson Valley – the Mid-Hudson and the Newburgh-Beacon – and were able to learn about the Bridge Authority's robust preventive maintenance program, which helps maintain structures with an average age of 84 years. The delegation also toured NYSBA's Command Center, which provides 24/7 remote security monitoring of NYSBA's five vehicular crossings in the region, thus learning

about their close coordination with security staff and local first responders to ensure public safety and the free flow of traffic.

- DOT Region 8, which covers the Hudson Valley area, hosted the delegation at their Hudson Valley Transportation Management Center in Hawthorne, with a tour of the facility and a discussion on the logistics behind managing their vast transportation network of state roadways. DOT also brought the delegation to two sites – the Popolopen Bridge (carrying Route 9W) and State Route 218 – that were severely impacted by the July 9, 2023 storm that caused severe flooding in Orange County, showcasing the state’s work to repair and reopen these roadways and efforts to build on climate resiliency.
- MTA Bridges and Tunnels provided a tour of their Operations Command Center, where personnel around the clock are closely monitoring conditions on the MTA’s seven bridges and two tunnels to ensure safe and efficient travel. They also toured the MTA’s Hugh L. Carey Tunnel (Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel) and the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge, which each carry tens of thousands of vehicles daily.
- U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) joined the group for their tour of the MTA Command Center and spoke about the importance of collaborations like the delegation visit.
- The United States Coast Guard offered a tour of their Command Center and Vessel Traffic Center, where participants learned about emergency response efforts and maritime law enforcement in the New York area.
- The delegation were able to tour a range of different infrastructure types, from suspension bridges to vertical lift spans to cross-river tunnels.

“As the number of extreme weather events continues to grow, New York is committed to building resiliency,” **Governor Hochul** said. “Now more than ever, we must meet these challenges and address vulnerable infrastructure. I am grateful to Executive Director Alcantara, Commissioner Dominguez, and President Sheridan for welcoming the delegation of Dominican engineers and continuing this critical effort to collaborate on resiliency.”

**NYSBA Executive Director Dr. Minosca Alcantara** said, “Having been born and raised in the Dominican Republic, it was truly an honor to co-host this international exchange. As we toured these various bridges, tunnels, operations centers, and public works project sites, it became clear that all of us in the transportation industry have a lot to learn from each other, regardless of where we live and serve our communities. I hope that the delegation felt warmly welcomed and are able to bring back some best practices to help build upon their country’s transportation network. We all enjoyed deepening the bonds between the State of New York and the Dominican Republic.”

**State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez** said, “At its heart, this exchange with the Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Works and Communications was an opportunity for both New York State transportation officials and Dominican officials to listen, learn and grow as transportation professionals. While the landscapes we deal with are very different, we both face similar challenges in terms of climate change and the burdensome effects it has on our infrastructure, which we know all too well about in the Hudson Valley and throughout New York State. The State Department of Transportation was proud to partner with our colleagues in state government to showcase the work we perform on behalf of New Yorkers every day as we respond to climate change in real time while building a resilient and sustainable infrastructure for the future.”

“Collaborations like this are crucial to promoting safe road operations, emergency response and facility maintenance and improvements throughout the region and the world,” said **MTA Bridges and Tunnels President Cathy Sheridan**. “I appreciate the bond between our organizations and look forward to working together to ensure a state-of-the-art transportation network.”

“I commend the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA), the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for convening the international technical exchange with civil engineers and officials from the Dominican Republic,” said **Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)**. “Having the ability to share ideas on how to further strengthen infrastructure resiliency and investments significantly benefits our two nations and the communities we serve. I look forward to continuing collaborative discussions on how to bolster support for infrastructure agencies in New York and the Dominican Republic to support critical infrastructure needs throughout the region.”

### **About the New York State Bridge Authority**

The New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) operates the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon, Mid-Hudson, Kingston-Rhinecliff and Rip Van Winkle Bridges. It also owns and maintains the structure of the Walkway Over the Hudson pedestrian bridge. The Authority receives no operating funding through state or federal tax dollars, with nearly all of its revenue coming through tolls. Tolls are reinvested back into capital improvements on the Authority’s spans, ensuring these critical pieces of infrastructure can continue serving the Hudson Valley for decades to come. Learn more at [www.nysba.ny.gov](http://www.nysba.ny.gov).

### **About the Department of Transportation**

The New York State Department of Transportation strives to provide a safe, reliable, equitable, and resilient transportation system that connects communities, enhances quality of life, protects the environment, and supports the economic well-being of New York State.

Lives are on the line; slow down and move over for highway workers!

For more information, find us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [X](#) or [Instagram](#), or visit our [website](#). For up-to-date travel information, call 511, visit [www.511NY.org](http://www.511NY.org) or download the free 511NY mobile app.

### **About MTA Bridges and Tunnels**

MTA Bridges and Tunnels’ nine iconic crossings, between the boroughs of New York City, serve almost 1 million vehicles on an average day. In 2023, MTA Bridges and Tunnels carried more traffic than any bridge and tunnel authority in the nation—more than 336 million vehicles. Surplus revenues from tolls help support MTA public transit services. All of MTA Bridges and Tunnels’ crossings use cashless, electronic tolling systems, which processes traffic more quickly and safely and reduces carbon emissions and fuel consumption.

###