

Contact: Chris Steber | (845) 691-7245 | <u>csteber@nysba.ny.gov</u>

For Immediate Release: February 28, 2025

BRIDGE AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR BEAR MOUNTAIN BRIDGE RE-DECKING PROJECT

New Website and Project Email Address Launched

First Public Meeting Being Held on March 13 in Garrison

Fort Montgomery, N.Y. – The New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) announced today that public engagement on the upcoming Bear Mountain Bridge deck replacement project has kicked off, with the launch of the project website and the announcement of the first public meeting. As part of this process, multiple opportunities for public engagement will be offered, including progress updates on the project website and a dedicated project email address, as well as in-person and virtual meetings.

The first in-person public meeting will take place on Thursday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Desmond-Fish Public Library (472 NY Route 403, Garrison, N.Y). This first of a series of public meetings and open houses will offer an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project and share their input.

The Bear Mountain Bridge, which opened in 1924, last had a deck replacement in 1976. Concrete decks typically last between 30-50 years, depending on wear and tear experienced on a bridge. The project is currently in the design phase, with construction expected to begin in Spring 2026.

In addition to the deck replacement, a few ancillary projects are being considered as part of the larger project to include the widening of the bridge's sidewalks to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and improved drainage systems. Other enhancements being evaluated include anti-climb fencing and barriers that meet modern standards for height and safety. Additionally, options for new overlooks will be evaluated at the towers to provide pedestrians a safe and accessible space to enjoy the scenic views.

Information on the project can be found online at <u>www.bearmountainbridgeproject.com</u>. Anyone who has questions or comments can email <u>bearmountainbridgeproject@gmail.com</u>. Those who would like to request interpretation or inquire about special accommodations during the meetings should email <u>bearmountainbridgeproject@gmail.com</u>. Future inperson meetings and open houses will be offered in other locations and noticed ahead of time through newsletters, social media updates, and the project website.

About the New York State Bridge Authority

The New York State Bridge Authority 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.

###