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For Immediate Release: October 8, 2024

Photos available by request.

BRIDGE AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE UNDERWAY IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

***International Cable Supported Bridge Operators Conference (ICSBOC) Taking
Place Oct. 6 through 10 at West Point***

Conference Brings Together Bridge Engineers from Around the Globe

The New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) announces that the International Cable Supported Bridge Operators Conference (ICSBOC) is underway, taking place October 6 through 10 at the United States Military Academy at West Point. This highly technical engineering conference brings together over 200 engineers, bridge operators, and other stakeholders from the global suspension and cable stay bridge community. The conference is highlighting the Bear Mountain Bridge during its centennial year.

This multi-day conference takes place every two years, with the most recent conference in 2022 taking place in Kobe, Japan. This year's conference marks the first fully in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants are taking part in workshops and technical tours designed to foster collaboration by sharing best practices within the bridge engineering field. ICSBOC is notable for focusing specifically on suspension bridges and other cable supported spans. More details can be found at <https://icsboa.com/icsboc/2024/>.

While ICSBOA now has a formal governing body, it originated from a series of bridge operator gatherings in the Hudson Valley hosted by the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA). In 1991, NYSBA was looking for ways to reduce wire corrosion on the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Recognizing the importance of collaboration, the Authority's leadership invited engineers and bridge operators from around the world to the bridge to inspect its main cables and share best practices in preventive maintenance. In 2000, a second gathering with a similar focus was held at the Bear Mountain Bridge. Conferences were then held on a regular basis after that point, with ICSBOA officially

adopting by-laws in 2013. Today, its membership consists of bridge operators from Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

NYSBA is once again the host organization for this year's conference, with the Bear Mountain Bridge as the centerpiece during its centennial year. The Bear Mountain Bridge was dedicated on November 26, 1924, and opened to the general public a day later on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1924. It was the first vehicular crossing over the Hudson River south of Albany and was a groundbreaking achievement for its time. The bridge was originally built by a private enterprise, the Bear Mountain Hudson River Bridge Company. In September 1940, the Bridge Authority acquired the bridge, making it NYSBA's southernmost bridge. More information about the bridge centennial and related events can be found at www.bmb100.com.

New York State Bridge Authority Executive Director Dr. Minosca Alcantara said, "New York State has always been at the forefront of technological advances and an incubator for innovation. NYSBA is delighted to welcome back our friends from ICSBOA to the Hudson Valley for their 2024 conference. We are proud of the role NYSBA has played in the creation of this esteemed organization. The exchange of ideas at forums like this help to strengthen infrastructure like the Bear Mountain Bridge and other noteworthy structures around the world."

New York State Bridge Authority Board of Commissioners Chair Joan McDonald said, "This conference is one of the centerpieces of the centennial year for the Bear Mountain Bridge. The Board of Commissioners congratulates our staff and their partners on a job well done. Their years of careful planning have made this conference a reality for over 200 participants, who will now enjoy informative workshops and be able to take home best practices to their organizations."

ICSBOA Chairperson Justine Tietjen said, "ICSBOC 2024 marks a milestone for our organization as we return to a fully in-person conference, with over 200 delegates attending from around the world. It is only fitting that we are coming back together at the place where it all started, on the 100th anniversary of Bear Mountain Bridge. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates, as well as my sincere thanks to our host, NYSBA, and to all involved with the planning of this Conference."

The conference has received planning support from the non-profit Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley (HBHV), including proposal writing, event support, and coordinating STEM education opportunities during ICSBOC. Sunitha Howard's Applied Science Research students from Lincoln High School in Yonkers have the opportunity to hear presentations about bridge engineering, advances in technology, and creating sustainable infrastructure, as well as meet one-on-one with international engineers and learn about creating pathways to STEM careers in a variety of fields. Additionally, conference attendees enjoyed an advance viewing of the HBHV-produced documentary, "Bear Mountain Bridge: The First 100 Years."

Executive Director of Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley Kathryn Burke said, "Historically, NYSBA Engineering and Maintenance has been on the forefront of practices that extend the life of all their Hudson River Bridges. The fact that this international organization, ICSBOA, has its roots in the Bridge Authority gives evidence to the exceptional nature of this public authority, whose working motto is, 'Maintenance Deferred is Maintenance Denied.' The long-standing practices of long-term maintenance plans, fiscally responsible operations, and self-funding maintenance and operations as required by their original charter has enabled the Bridge Authority to keep tolls low and their bridges in very good condition. At 100 this year, the Bear Mountain Bridge stands ready to begin its next hundred years of service to the Hudson Valley."

"Providing our students with authentic learning experiences is at the heart of what we do at Yonkers Public Schools," **said Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr.** "I am incredibly proud of the 21 students from Lincoln High School who will be participating in the International Cable Supported Bridge Operators Conference. This opportunity to engage directly with engineers and bridge experts from around the world will further inspire their interest in STEM and help them envision their future careers. A heartfelt thank you to Sunitha Howard, Lincoln High School's Academy of Science Research Director, and Kathryn Burke for their dedication to creating these life-changing experiences for our students."

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.

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