



OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY

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October 3, 2016

Mr. John Buyce
Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236-0001

Dear Mr. Buyce:

The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (the Authority) has taken the Key Recommendations from the recent Capital Planning and Maintenance Audit very seriously. Immediately after receiving the audit, I directed our Chief Financial Officer to address these recommendations.

As the 2017-2018 budget is prepared, all anticipated needs will be included in the four-year capital plans. In all budget years going forward, all capital needs will be included.

In the past, some of our most costly capital needs were not included because we did not believe we could fund those needs. This audit enabled us to understand the importance of including all capital needs regardless of the cost or likelihood of funding. We now realize that advance planning at the highest levels of New York State government cannot include our capital needs if we do not inform State government of those needs.

The Authority's Chief Financial Officer has started an analysis of the Bridge's current toll structure. We will soon issue an RFP to enable us to find a consultant experienced in developing a strategy to determine and help implement the most appropriate rates for each vehicle type from short term, intermediate, and long-term perspectives.

The only reason this RFP has not been issued within the 90 days is that fact that our small organization here at the Authority has been concentrating on the successful expansion of the Ogdensburg International Airport. This Capital Planning and Maintenance project has had and will have a huge economic growth impact for the North Country region. Substantial completion of this \$25 Million project was September 30, 2016.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or for more information. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Samuel J. LaMacchia,
Chairperson of the Board
Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority

ccs See Next Page

ccs **Honorable Andrew Cuomo, New York State Governor**
Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, Assembly Majority Leadership
Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chair, Ways & Means Committee
Honorable John F. Flanagan, Temporary President & Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Honorable Catharine M. Young, Chair, Senate Finance Committee