

The Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority Mission:

In 1950, Governor Thomas E. Dewey signed a bill (Article 3, Title 8), creating the Ogdensburg Bridge Authority. Later in 1958 legislation (Article 6, Title 3), created the Ogdensburg Port Authority. In 1961, the two Authorities were combined into the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (Amended Article 3, Title 8). Today, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority manages \$47 million in assets including:

- The Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge
- The Port of Ogdensburg
- A short-line railroad (New York and Ogdensburg Railway)
- The Ogdensburg International Airport (OGS)
- The Commerce Park / Heavy Industrial Park (Foreign Trade Zone 118)
- The Ogdensburg Border Station, Inc.

Each asset operates according to the Authority's central mission:

“While remaining self-sustaining, the Authority creates sound economic business development through the promotion of buildings and river, road, rail and air transportation. This is accomplished by providing exceptional customer service, safe and secure facilities, good environmental stewardship, and focused professionalism.”

Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge

Construction started on the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge in 1957 and was opened to traffic on September 21, 1960. The Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge is the twenty-sixth longest suspension bridge in the United States, with a suspension span of 655 meters (2,161 feet) and total length of 7,377 feet. The Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge is the eighty-seventh longest suspension bridge in the world and handles approximately 500,000 vehicles annually and is designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



The bridge structure is now 47 years old and requires major capital expenditures (\$75 million) to rehabilitate the structure for the next 50 years of its useful life. New York State included \$15 million in the 2005 Transportation Bond Act to begin essential capital maintenance on the structure.

In July 2006, the Authority received approval for its first toll increase on Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge since 1984. The Authority continues to add value to international

commerce through the implementation of a new bridge toll collection system designed to expedite traffic and has preliminary project approval to relocate the toll booth operations to the south of the recently constructed border station completing the modernization of the facility. This in conjunction with the Weigh in Motion (WIM) Scales will further improve traffic flow.

Security of the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge will improve significantly with a \$450,000 security grant from the New York State Homeland Security the DHS to harden the bridge against future security threats.

In 2006, the Authority initiated discussions on fiber-optic connections to the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) and Canadian fiber-optic system. This will significantly improve the region's communication infrastructure and may provide a future source of revenue for the bridge.

Port of Ogdensburg

Primary products through the Port of Ogdensburg include road salt and animal feed. In 2006, the port handled 175,800 short tons of road salt, a 1,800 ton increase from the previous year. Corn gluten and cotton seed (a new commodity to the port) continue to support agricultural needs of the region. The Authority continues to work with bulk transportation specialists exploring additional commodities potentially shipped through this facility.



The Authority is actively pursuing a \$220,000 New York State Department of Transportation State Planning and Research (SPR) grant for development of a port master plan and development study to increase overall tonnage.

There are four general cargo warehouses at the Port containing 91,000 SF of space. During 2006 85% of this space was occupied, generating \$260,000 in gross revenue to the Authority. Port development efforts continue attempting to secure tenants which generate additional port tonnage

The Authority is an active member of the recently reconvened Council of Upstate Ports of New York (CUPNY) with a goal of generating additional business for upstate ports and is actively exploring options with neighboring ports who operate on a 24/365 schedule. A Request for Proposal (RFP) leasing the marine terminal is also underway.

Short-line railroad

Rehabilitation is the major key to success for the Authority's short-line railroad (NYOR). Continued rehabilitation of the line is critical to maintaining transportation capabilities of both the Authority rail and port facilities.

In 2006, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority completed the first phase of rehabilitation of the New York and Ogdensburg Railway (NYOR). At a cost of \$0.75 million, 8,400 railroad ties were replaced along the 30-mile line, 2.5 miles of track was upgraded to 100 pound rail in anticipation of 286,000 pound rail traffic.



Since 2002, the total investment in track rehabilitation is \$4.5 million:

- PIN 7935.15.301, Multi-Modal II project for \$1M, completed
- PIN 7950.20.301, Rail Preservation Fund for \$1M, completed
- PIN 7935.18.301, on-going project for \$1.0M under Agreement #D021937 with NYOR
- PIN 7935.19.301, proposed Phase II work for \$1.5M, to be added to Agreement #D021937 with NYOR (2007)

Future rail projects include significant bridge work to bring the rail bridges up to 286,000 pound rail cars, the construction of an engine house to Ogdensburg, New York, and continued rehabilitation of the line.

Ogdensburg International Airport

The airport continues to be a revenue-producing challenge for the Authority. The Ogdensburg International Airport serves as a critical link to air service for St. Lawrence County and provides air access to both commercial aviation and private planes.

The completion of the access road in early 2006 in conjunction with the renovation of a former corporate hangar on the north side of the runway and the installation of security fencing route on Routes 812/68 continue to provide safe, cost effective services to the traveling public.



Unfunded regulatory requirements continue to be a concern to the Authority. The combined effect of firefighting regulations (ARFF) anticipated for June 2007 along with the loss of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) funding for the Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) in October 2007 are anticipated to increase costs at the airport for a partial year by at least \$100,000 with no additional revenue generation. This requirement retains the airports operating certificate under CFR 139 regulations. The Authority continues to pursue exemptions to this requirement based on financial hardship, but is not optimistic of a favorable outcome.

2007 brings a potential change in Essential Air Subsidy (EAS) with a route destination change to Boston which is anticipated to improve the passenger count. A transient hanger may be constructed as part of an infrastructure project to support aviation business development which will increase employment and generate additional revenue for the Ogdensburg International Airport.

Other improvements include crack sealing of the runway, relocation of the beacon, and eventual removal of the current passenger terminal.

Commerce Park / Heavy Industrial Park

Twelve buildings in Commerce Park are utilized primarily for light manufacturing and distribution. At a total of 288,472 square feet of space, Commerce Park generates a modest revenue stream. Of the seven buildings (136,200 square feet) owned by the Authority, these tenants continue to provide jobs to citizens of our community and have made a major commitment to Northern New York State.



With occupancy rates in excess of 98%, the Authority is investigating construction of a 33,000 square foot shell building at a cost of \$2.5 million which is anticipated to create between 30 and 90 new jobs and further increase utilization of the international bridge. The Authority continues to work with the Joint Economic Development Council which consists of two townships and the City of Ogdensburg to attract additional businesses to locate their operations in Commerce Park.

The Authority continues to focus on potential businesses and industries which utilize more than one of the Authority's assets. Significant site preparation occurred in 2006 in anticipation of future heavy industrial client which may utilize the Port of Ogdensburg, the NYOR rail line, the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge, and/or the Port of Ogdensburg

Additional capital investments will be required in order to maintain our infrastructure so we can expand our operational revenues. The Authority is extremely limited in available funds. We continue to seek outside funding sources such as local, State, and Federal grants and work closely with our elected government representatives to secure the funding needed for future projects.

**Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority
Mission Statement**

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