



Thruway Authority

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JOANNE M. MAHONEY
Chair

MATTHEW J. DRISCOLL
Executive Director

To: Governor Kathy Hochul
Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor
Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

From: Matthew J. Driscoll, Executive Director of the Thruway Authority
Re: Government Transparency Initiative
Date: October 20, 2021

Transparency and accountability in state government is at the cornerstone for productive and credible delivery of services to New York’s residents and we strongly support and embrace fully transparent policies and practices. The Thruway Authority is an independent public authority that relies entirely on toll revenues rather than state and local taxpayer dollars.

To that end, as a public authority, the Thruway Authority complies with various accountability requirements including the posting of numerous guidelines, policies, statutes, etc. on the Authority’s website. A categorized list of those documents is attached in Appendix A. The Authority also contributes to Open Data NY – see Appendix B. Currently, there are 54 distinct data sets available online and we are always looking to provide additional information on a regular basis.

In response to your request, the Thruway Authority plans to move forward with the following items to improve the transparency of the operations of the organization.

Publish Board Meeting Supporting Documents

As an independent public authority, we are governed by a Board of Directors whose meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law. Each Board Meeting is open to the public (pending COVID restrictions) and must be duly noticed to the public and streamed live for viewing. Board meeting schedules are published for the entire year beginning in January. Meeting agendas are published on our website in advance of the meetings but currently, the supporting board exhibits and other documents associated with the agenda items are not published. Moving ahead, in line with other transportation authorities such as the MTA, we will publish our board book supporting materials online with the agenda.

Capital and Infrastructure Investment

The Thruway Authority posts a variety of information about the overall quality of the highway and the more than 800 bridges under our jurisdiction. We continuously maintain separate



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Pavement and Bridge Asset Management systems to collect data for analysis and integration into our decision-making processes as we develop and refine our five-year capital plan. This information will be updated annually.

<https://www.thruway.ny.gov/oursystem/capitalprogram/current-infra-info.html>

More Transparent Bidding Process and Contract Awards

The Authority is in the final stages of implementing Bid Express software. Once implemented, the Authority will manage and accept bids electronically, and have the ability to publish the bid tabulations. We will incorporate line item results into our database so bidders can query specific bidding items and obtain historical information to develop a more competitive bid. Along with reducing bidder and staff time to respond and process Authority bids, this is a more open and transparent process, and it is more advantageous from a pricing perspective for the Authority.

Maintenance Operations and Fleet Management

We plan to add the following information to our public website:

- Alternative Fuel/EV: The Authority will begin reporting on its website the amount of E-85 or gallons of gasoline replaced with E-85 and the use of Bio diesel. We are investing and building out our EV fleet to meet the Governor's goals of a zero-emission grid and reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030.
- Truck Miles traveled and Acres of Thruway Right of Way Mowed/Planted to reduce mowing and promote pollinators

Financial Reports

The Authority already publishes a wide variety of financial reports on the public website. See Appendices A and B. As part of this effort to increase transparency, the Authority includes the following on its website:

- Bond Program - [Bond Program - New York State Thruway \(ny.gov\)](#)
- Monthly Financials - [Monthly Financials - New York State Thruway \(ny.gov\)](#)

Renewable Energy

The Authority has a photovoltaic energy system (solar system) on its Right of Way at Woodbury (Orange County). The solar system is operated and maintained by a solar provider who was



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selected as part of a competitive procurement process. The solar system has an annual production goal of one million Kilowatt hours with an estimated lifetime production of 25 years.

The energy generated by the solar system is fed directly into the electric utility grid and used to offset the Authority's electric bills at several nearby facilities. The Authority is currently evaluating other locations along the system for similar installations which would also advance through a competitive procurement process. Moving forward, the Authority will provide information on the Authority's website related to the Woodbury solar system and plans for future installations, when available.

Aesthetic Lighting for the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge

The Authority will move ahead to publish the aesthetic lighting calendar for the bridge. In addition, we will have an online platform for the public to submit requests to light the bridge in different color schemes for a variety of "good causes." The determination will follow our approved policy governing the lighting.

Training

The Authority provides a wide variety of training to its employees. We host Instructor-led (webinar and in-person) training classes on 30 supervisory, employee development, and Microsoft application topics; Self-paced training classes are available on demand as a supplement to instructor-led programs; Customized work unit workshops and training consultation and facilitation services are offered as requested; Resume review and mock employment interview sessions provided in addition to technical and safety training programs, a comprehensive Thruway Maintenance Worker training program and we facilitate the completion of the Governor's Office of Employee Relation's annual mandatory training requirements. We plan to publish these numbers on our public website moving ahead.

Legal and Compliance


- The Authority will process FOIL requests within the timeframe as required by law and will post the list of FOILs received and date of receipt on its website. We have effectively eliminated the costs of providing documents to public because we provide electronic links to documents. Although Public Officers Law allows a 25 cent per page charge, it is rare that we charge.
- The Authority will post a list of all contracts for engineering services, financial services and goods and services entered into by the Authority; a list of all lawsuits brought on behalf of the Authority and against the Authority and a list of real estate acquisitions and sales.

Thruway Authority – Transparency Memo Appendices

The following appendices include a list of the information already available on the Authority's public website and on the state's Open Data website.

Appendix A

Guidelines, Organization and Compliance Reports Annual Highlights

- [Annual Highlights](#) 
(includes Performance Measures, Operations and Accomplishments)

Biographies

- [Chair](#)
- [Board Members](#)
- [Executive Director](#)
- [Executive Staff](#)

Board

- [Meetings, Agendas and Webcasts](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Minutes](#)

Budget Books

- [Budget Books for Previous Four Years](#)


Bylaws

- [Bylaws](#)

Code of Ethics

- [General Policy - 25-2-07](#)
- [Governing Board Members - TAP-118](#)

Enabling Statute

- Go to: <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi?NVMUO>: 
- Select **Laws**, then **Laws of New York**
- Select "**PBA**" **Public Authorities** , then
- Select "**Title 9**" **under Article 2** , then
- Select the relevant section of the statute

Fee Schedules

- [Toll Schedules](#)

Financial Statements

- [Audited Financial Statements](#)

Internal Control Certification

- [Internal Control Certification](#) 

Investments

- [Independent Auditor's Report on Investment Compliance](#)
- [Investments Policy - 25-4-01](#)
 - [Policy Amendments to 25-4-01](#)

- [Investment Reports for Previous Two Years](#)
- [Official Statements](#)
- [Schedule of Debt/New Issuances for Previous Two Years](#)

Lobbying Contacts Policy (PAL Section 2987)

- [Lobbying Contacts Policy \(PAL Section 2987\)](#)

Mission Statement

- We offer a user-fee supported Highway that delivers high levels of safety and service. (provided pursuant to Public Authorities Law Section 2800(1)(a)(3))

Organization Chart

- [Organization Chart](#) 

Personal Property

- [Personal Property Transaction Reports for Previous Two Years](#)

Projects Undertaken

- [Capital Program Update](#)

Purchasing Services

- [Procurement Policy - 25-5-01](#)
- [Procurement Reports for Previous Two Years](#)

Real Property

- [Inventory](#)
- [Policy - 25-6-02](#)
- [Real Property Transaction Reports for Previous Two Years](#)
- [Standard Operating Procedures](#)

Whistleblower Policy

- [Whistleblower Policy - 25-2-26](#)

Note: The 2016 New York State enacted budget included the transfer of the Canal Corporation from under the jurisdiction of the Thruway Authority to the New York Power Authority (NYPA). NYPA assumed ownership of the New York State Canal Corporation on January 1, 2017. View the [New York State Canal Corporation Compliance Reports and Disclosure Documents](#) 

Appendix B

Thruway Data set included on Data.ny.gov

[Active Capital Projects Map, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles: 2008 - 2014 | State of New York](#)

[Active Capital Projects, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[Planned Capital Projects Map, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: Latest Full Week | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Travel Plazas and Parking/Rest Areas | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Capital Projects, NYS Thruway Authority Capital Programs: Beginning 2005 | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Interchanges and Exits | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Planned Capital Projects, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[Completed Capital Projects, NYS Thruway Authority: Beginning 2005 | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Interchanges and Exits Map | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Thruway Travel Plazas and Parking/Rest Areas Map | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Completed Capital Projects Map, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Commuter Park and Ride Lots Map | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Thruway Commuter Park and Ride Lots | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Tourism Information Centers | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2016 Q3 | State of New York](#)

[Tourism Information Centers Map | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: October 2014 - December 2014 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination for E-ZPass Vehicles Only: 2008 - 2014 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2016 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2019 | State of New York](#)

[Annual Cash or EZPass Usage Line Graph | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Thruway E-ZPass/Cash Hourly Usage by Plaza by Year: Beginning 2006 | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2018 | State of New York](#)

[E- ZPass Usage Statistics: Beginning 2008 | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Thruway E-ZPass/Cash Hourly Usage by Plaza by Month: Beginning 2006 | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Thruway E-ZPass/Cash Hourly Usage by Plaza: Beginning 2006 | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2016 Q2 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2020 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2017 Q2 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2019 Q1 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2017 Q4 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2018 Q1 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2020 Q3 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2019 Q2 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2020 Q1 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2018 Q4 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2020 Q2 | State of New York](#)

[Capital Projects 2005-2011, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[Capital Projects 2012-2015, NYS Thruway Authority | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2016 Q4 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2019 Q4 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2017 Q1 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2019 Q3 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2015 | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Toll Gantries | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2018 Q2 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2018 Q3 | State of New York](#)

[Thruway Toll Gantries Map | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Historical Auction Data, NYS Thruway Surplus Property: 2010-2013 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2016 Q1 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 1 Hour Intervals: 2017 | State of New York](#)

[NYS Thruway Origin and Destination Points for All Vehicles - 15 Minute Intervals: 2017 Q3 | State of New York](#)