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Contact: Jackie Schillinger | 518-281-5510 | jackie.schillinger@nypa.gov

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY AND NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCE COMPLETION AND OPENING OF BROCKPORT PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER THE ERIE CANAL

New Crossing over Iconic Waterway Connects SUNY Brockport to Empire State Trail and Village of Brockport's Downtown

Project Embodies Power Authority and Canal Corporation's Efforts to Revitalize the New York State Canal System Through Enhancing Connectivity and Supporting Economic Development Throughout the Canal Corridor

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) and New York State Canal Corporation today announced the completion of the construction of the Brockport Pedestrian Bridge, a new pedestrian bridge over the Erie Canal in the Village of Brockport, Monroe County. Unveiled during the Erie Canal's bicentennial year, the pedestrian bridge connects SUNY Brockport to the Empire State Trail and the village's downtown. The area surrounding the bridge's entrances provides additional opportunities for people to connect with the Erie Canal in a parklike setting, while complementing the Village of Brockport's installation of a kayak dock and recently completed boathouse. The bridge will also serve as a viewing platform for future rowing competitions on the canal.

"This new bridge embodies the efforts being made by NYPA and Canal Corporation to sustainably revitalize this historic and vital waterway," said **New York Power Authority Board of Trustees Chairman John Koelmel**. "We are proud to offer a brand-new way for Brockport residents, SUNY Brockport students and staff, and visitors from near and far to experience the Erie Canal and all the area has to offer."

In 2021, NYPA selected SHoP Architects, a New York City-based New York State Small Business Enterprise firm, and Arup to design and engineer the new pedestrian crossing. The design and materials used to build the bridge represent NYPA and the New York State Canal Corporation's commitment to sustainability and current best practices for accessibility. With its gentle elevation change, the pedestrian bridge is fully accessible

and integrates sustainable features such as native species planting, stormwater rain gardens, LED light fixtures, and compliance to Dark Sky principles. In addition, the bridge's major structural elements utilize locally fabricated steel, sustainable wood decking, and a low VOC durable paint.

New York Power Authority President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll said, "The completion of the Brockport Pedestrian Bridge provides all visitors to this area with an accessible way to connect with the village, the university, the Empire State Trail and, of course, the Erie Canal. It cements NYPA and the Canal Corporation's commitment to revitalization; economic development; sustainability; accessibility and inclusion."

New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton said, "As we commemorate 200 years of the Erie Canal, the Brockport Pedestrian Bridge will serve as an enduring reminder of this monumental year. NYPA and the Canal Corporation are hard at work ensuring the Erie Canal remains a vibrant part of New York State's fabric for the next 100 years, and this bridge ensures that progress will continue for many decades to come."

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation contributed to the bridge's construction through a \$2 million grant, which was administered by the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Director of Parks & Trails Initiative J.J. Tighe said, "As the Erie Canal celebrates its Bicentennial, it remains an important connection from Buffalo to New York City. This new pedestrian bridge adds to that legacy by linking SUNY Brockport, the village, local businesses, and the Empire State Trail. We're excited for what the next century holds for the Erie Canal as it continues to provide recreational and economic opportunities across New York State, while improving access and inviting residents and visitors to explore the Canal and the vibrant communities along its path. We're proud to support projects like this that create lasting connections between people and places."

SUNY Brockport President Heidi Macpherson said, "The Erie Canal is a national treasure, and we are so fortunate to be the only one of SUNY's 64 campuses that gets to call it home. SUNY Brockport takes great pride in being a University that is engaged with its community and this pedestrian bridge is a tangible example of that commitment, as it physically connects our campus with the Village of Brockport and the Empire State Trail. I can't think of a more fitting way for our community to celebrate the canal's bicentennial anniversary."

Village of Brockport Mayor Margay Blackman said, Brockport's fully accessible new pedestrian bridge across the Erie Canal is nothing short of a destination. Its sinuous deck of black locust sweeps around the 100-year-old historic guard gate that controls canal water levels. Native plantings at each end of the bridge and Canalside benches invite village residents, SUNY students, and visitors to linger and enjoy the view. Our thanks to NYPA, the Canal Corporation, the Ralph Wilson Foundation, and the Community Foundation for this significant investment in Brockport's canal recreation and tourism.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Executive Director Bob Radliff said, "Since its inception, the Erie Canal has been all about forging connections. It connected the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes, the interior of America with the coast, and cities and towns all along its path with distant markets. The Brockport Pedestrian Bridge offers a new and exciting canal connection. We hope this link between SUNY Brockport and the Erie Canal will be enjoyed by students and community members for years to come."

Rochester Area Community Foundation President and CEO Simeon Banister said, "The Community Foundation is in the business of building bridges, whether the divide is socioeconomic, racial, or geographic. Today, we're proud to be a connector between the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and this vision for a vibrant and connected region."

Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Paul Steely White said, "We are incredibly proud to see the people of Brockport reimagine the future of the historic canalfront. As our first Empire State Trail Town, we've worked closely with Brockport to build up the region's capacity to host cyclists and build community around active recreation and transportation. This pedestrian bridge will connect the Village of Brockport and SUNY Brockport with the 750-mile Empire State Trail, creating safer, more accessible pathways for locals and visitors alike.

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About NYPA

NYPA is the largest state public power organization in the nation, operating 17 generating facilities and more than 1,550 circuit-miles of transmission lines. More than 80 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. NYPA finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. For more information visit www.nypa.gov and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and LinkedIn.

About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York's Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga – Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

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