

SMART



GRANT APPLICATION

THE PROJECT

The New York State Thruway Authority has been awarded a \$1.5 Million Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This grant will fund a demonstrated use of innovative Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) technologies which will perform inspections of infrastructure, obtain engineering datum, and develop analysis processes for this datum. The Thruway Authority is spearheading the use of UAS aviation technology for transportation infrastructure within New York State and is dedicated to development of aerial technology which serves to improve transportation safety and efficiency.

The portion of the Thruway located within Herkimer and Oneida Counties will serve as the location to prototype this technology. The SMART grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, and for the Authority to engage and benefit Historically Disadvantaged Communities and/or Areas of Persistent Poverty.

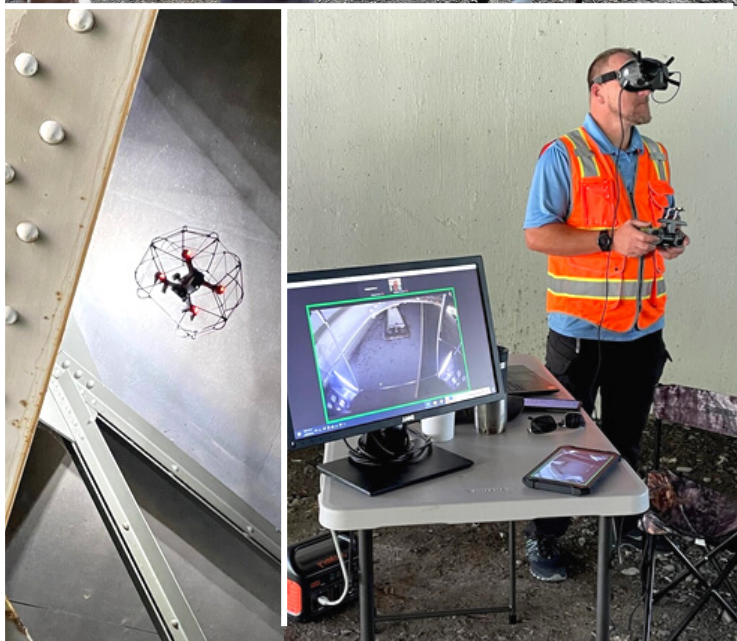
CRITICAL NEED

Enhanced capabilities are needed by transportation agencies for the safe, early, and effective detection and documentation of damage, defects, and potential problem areas on transportation infrastructure so that necessary maintenance action can be identified and addressed as soon as possible. Emergent UAS aviation technology has the capability to meet these needs. With funding from a SMART grant and assistance from the Authority's non-profit partner Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance, Inc., the Authority will have the necessary resources to prototype next generation methods to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of the collection and analysis of critical data.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The SMART Grant will provide opportunity to:

- **ENHANCE** the asset management of infrastructure to maintain it in a state of good repair and maintain connectivity to and within local communities.
- **PARTNER** with academic institutions serving Historically Disadvantaged Communities to prepare students for future high-quality UAS-related jobs.



Thruway
Authority