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*WORLD'S LONGEST
PEDISTRIAN BRIDGE TO
BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER*

PRESS RELEASE

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., March 12, 2009 – Once a mighty rail crossing allowing western commerce over the Hudson River, the 1 ¼ mile long Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge is being rehabilitated for re-use as an iconic New York State Park, soon to be the world's longest pedestrian bridge. The Grand Opening is scheduled for this October and will be the centerpiece for the State's Quadracentennial celebration of Henry Hudson's historic voyage up the river that now bears his name.

The 120 year old bridge has been a dormant giant since a fire in 1974. In 1996, the not-for-profit group Walkway Over the Hudson took ownership of the property and subsequently assembled the Bergmann Team to certify the structural integrity of the bridge and to produce a comprehensive plan for its use as a public park and walkway. Bergmann Associates developed a fast-track inspection and construction design plan that will have the bridge completed for the fall of 2009. This is truly a unique project not only because of the impending completion date but also the multiple public private entities involved, the meticulous rope inspections that were a construction precursor, the continuous delivery and installation of mammoth concrete deck panels and ultimately the transformation of one economic development engine to another. Recent studies predict an estimated 267,000 annual visitors resulting in a \$21 million impact on the regional economy.

Very recently, due directly to Transportation Enhancement Funding, the Walkway project secured additional money for a 20 story glass elevator for the Poughkeepsie side. When completed, the pedestrian bridge will link extensive regional trail networks in Dutchess and Ulster Counties as well as being a stop on the train from New York City 90 miles to the south. After more than three decades, the historic Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge is awakening from its long slumber to resume its role as a "great connector". The surrounding community will undoubtedly support and benefit from the restoration of this engineering marvel. www.walkway.org

About Bergmann Associates

*Bergmann Associates is a progressive, forward-thinking engineering and architectural design firm with three decades of success providing multi-disciplinary services to clients throughout the United States. Headquartered in Rochester, NY, Bergmann has ten U.S. offices and 320 professional and technical staff featuring talented planners, architects, interior designers, landscape architects, programmers, developers, structural, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and industrial engineers. – Our **People** and Our **Passion** in Every Project.*

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