There is More to Closing a Bridge than Doing the Math

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Bridges in New York State and across the nation are aging and deteriorating because of deferred maintenance and the simple fact that bridges, like all machines, have a finite life. Bridge Management can at times be an emergency response activity. When a bridge reaches the end of its life and the people responsible for the bridge can no longer assure the users of the structure that it is safe, action is required. Closing a bridge or severely restricting its use can have significant consequences. This lecture will discuss how to manage and survive a major bridge closure. Using the Lake Champlain Bridge closure as a case study and including other examples, the role of the bridge engineer in risk assessment, decision-making, and implementation of an emergency closure will be discussed.

Biographical Sketch:

Mr. Dennison, former New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Chief Engineer, leads VHB’s transportation planning and design engineering services in New York. Throughout his 35+ year career, Dennison has made a tremendous impact on shaping the future of transportation and infrastructure in New York. He has held positions of responsibility in Town, County and State governments and understands the internal operations of government. As Chief Engineer at NYSDOT, Dennison was responsible for New York State’s $1.6 billion annual capital construction program, bridge safety assurance of 17,000 publicly owned bridges, and management of the annual consultant program of $250 million. Earlier in his career, Mr. Dennison was the Regional Director and served as the Bridge Management Engineer of the Hudson Valley Region of NYSDOT.

Date / Time: Monday, April 23, 2012, 5:00 – 7:45 pm, Eastern Time
Location: North Campus, Baldy Hall, Room 200G
To register to attend in person: Call Jim at (716) 645-0956
Professional development credit available: Call Jim at (716) 645-0956; 3 PDH ($150)
To register for free live webinar: http://mceer.buffalo.edu/education/Bridge_Speaker_Series/register.asp