

between the Provincial and State Highway Networks, and there is therefore a clear Ontario interest in terms of provincial transportation. On the other hand, they also form linkage with the National Highway Network and it is noteworthy that in legislation covering certain international bridges, the national interest has been stressed by a declaration that the undertaking is for the general advantage of Canada. Moreover, one cannot overlook the fact that legislative authority in international bridge matters is vested in the Federal Government. The Ontario Government appears to have somewhat mixed motives for wishing to involve itself in international bridge matters. Initially, there is the practical reason that it would like to have some input, particularly at the planning stage, into the making of decisions which may have considerable effects on provincial highways and traffic patterns. In many ways, the provincial government is in the best position to identify bridge needs. Pressures for new construction are more likely to be felt at the provincial level and State Governments would, in most cases, address themselves initially to the Ontario Government if they wished to discuss the possibility of bridge construction. A more material consideration from Ontario's point of view is that by active participation in international bridge control, it would be able to influence decisions on the basis of need without having to fund such construction from provincial highway funds as was the case with the Pigeon River Bridge.

It might be suggested that in view of the direct interest of the Provincial Government, there is nothing to stop that government setting up an authority which would evaluate bridge needs and, under federal legislation, issue bonds and construct and operate bridges. However, the Ontario Government appears determined to avoid running into expense in an area of federal legislative responsibility. It is equally clear that because of the national interest involved in international bridges and because its constitutional authority in the field requires it