

## THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER

The Electronic Newsletter of the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS) at New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. (<http://www.nyu.edu/icis>)

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#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

#### **Transportation Security Administration and Security Infrastructure Partnership Created**

A new Transportation Security Administration within DOT was created as a result of the Secure Transportation for America Act, which was introduced by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Subcommittee on Aviation. This new entity will be responsible for the security of all modes of transportation in the United States. On December 10, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced John Magaw as President Bush's intended nominee to serve as Under Secretary of Transportation Security. Magaw is currently Acting Executive Director of the Office of National Preparedness within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and he is a former director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the U.S. Secret Service. The Transportation Security Administration will be larger than the FBI, the DEA and the border patrol combined.

On November 20 the Security Infrastructure Partnership was formed. It includes key federal agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Federal Emergency Management Commission and major design and private-sector construction groups. Its main goal is to coordinate infrastructure security.

To read more about infrastructure security visit:

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot12301.htm> and  
[http://www.enr.com/new/coverstry\\_121001.asp](http://www.enr.com/new/coverstry_121001.asp)

### **WTC Agreement Signed to Protect Workers at Ground Zero**

“The WTC Emergency Project Partnership Agreement” was signed on November 21 by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, the Construction Industry Partnership (CIP), contractors, representatives from the City of New York, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY). The Agreement is meant to address worker safety issues at ground zero through stricter prevention techniques, safety controls, and more diverse monitoring of hazardous effects of the site, including asbestos, temperature, noise, radiation, and biological agents. For more information on the agreement, see

<http://www.newyorkconstructionnews.com/NYCN/NY-WTCSept01/NY-WTCdisasterpg12.htm>

### **Gotham Gazette Explores Transportation Issues Since September 11<sup>th</sup>**

In their “Issue of the Week”, Gotham Gazette explores how local transportation has been affected by September 11<sup>th</sup>. They highlight the renewed appreciation of mass transit since the attacks and focus on how the rebuilding of the mass transit will be different in the future. Two articles are presented; “Getting Back on Track”, by Jeffrey M. Zupan which indicates that many mass transit riders have and continue to be affected by mass transit closings, and “Mapping the Trends”, by Bruce Schaller which questions whether September 11<sup>th</sup> has changed our view of automobile dependency. Both articles suggest future initiatives for NYC transit systems and link to transportation related stories. For more, see

[www.gothamgazette.com](http://www.gothamgazette.com)

### **Verizon Restores Much of Lower Manhattan Phone Service**

Between September 11<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, Verizon had restored 300,000 phone lines using unconventional methods, such as stringing formerly underground lines out windows and down sidewalks. Although many lines have been restored, Verizon says it still needs close to one billion dollars to restore the system permanently. For more, see

[http://www.nydailynews.com/2001-12-01/News\\_and\\_Views/City\\_Beat/a-133819.asp](http://www.nydailynews.com/2001-12-01/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-133819.asp)

### **Sierra Club Report Grades Regions on Anti-Smog Efforts**

A Sierra Club report gave the Bay Area an unflattering “C-minus” grade for efforts to reduce smog through public transit spending. But the region was ranked among the best in the nation for its efforts. The report, called “Clearing the Air with Public Transit,” grades the fifty largest cities nationwide giving the best anti-smog ranking to New York City, where most people get around by train and subways.

<http://www0.mercurycenter.com/front/docs1/report1114.htm>

To view the Sierra Club report please link to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/report01/>

### **California Rebuild America Coalition Releases Report on Wastewater Infrastructure Issues Facing the State**

The California Rebuild America Coalition is please to announce the availability of a new communications piece, "Focus on California Infrastructure: Wastewater Collection & Treatment." This first in a series close-up on California infrastructure outlines wastewater infrastructure issues facing California and makes recommendations for steps that should be taken to meet the challenges ahead. Also available are three fact sheets that provide more detail on this critical issue. For more info, see

<http://calrac.grassroots.com/infraagenda/wastewater/>

### **Companies Design Porous Parking Lots**

The Natural Resources Defense Council reported that six US companies are trying to find alternatives to the current asphalt parking lot by creating porous pavements. Already in existence are surfaces such as "Grasspave", made of recycled polyethylene plastic. For more and to see a picture of the "Grasspave", try Natural Resources Defense Council briefing at

<http://www.nrdc.org/onearth/01fal/breflawn.asp>

For more detailed information, link to the website of Invisible Structures, Inc., creators of "Grasspave" and other innovative stormwater management techniques, at

[www.invisiblestructures.com](http://www.invisiblestructures.com)

### **Salt Lake City to Establish Green Building Task Force**

In an effort to reduce use of energy and other resources, Mayor Rocky Anderson of Salt Lake City has set in place a public-private partnership designed to set standards for city building projects. Initially, the project is only for city building and remodeling, but will eventually, using city funds, include all buildings and remodelings. For more information, see the summary on SmartGrowth Network:

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/news/bydate.asp>

### **INFRASTRUCTURE EVENTS CALENDAR**

The ICIS web site offers a calendar of major national and international events on civil infrastructure systems with links to more detailed event information.

<http://www.nyu.edu/icis/events/outsideconferences.html>

### **WEBSITES OF THE MONTH**

#### **Cool Companies**

Coolcompanies.org is a website created by the Center for Energy and Climate Solutions. The website is based on the book, Cool Companies, written by Dr. Joe Romm, former head of energy efficiency and renewables at US Department of Energy. The site has information on how to reduce costs for buildings through energy efficiency and statistics that illustrate the cost-effectiveness of energy conversation. It also has links to other renewable energy sites, energy

laws and regulations, and information on companies that have already instituted energy saving technology into their businesses.

<http://www.cool-companies.org/homepage.cfm>

### **Want to know how a certain car ranks in fuel efficiency, safety, and air pollution?**

This website, sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy, ranks all vehicles by annual fuel costs, green house gas emissions, safety, and air pollution. Simply select the year, make and model of any vehicle. Link to

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/findacar.htm>

### **Rebuilding New York**

Gotham Gazette's new "Rebuilding New York" website has links for the latest information about the rebuilding of the city.

[http://www.gothamgazette.com/rebuilding\\_nyc/](http://www.gothamgazette.com/rebuilding_nyc/)

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

As of November 21, 2001, about half of the World Trade Center debris had been cleaned up. (<http://www.newyorkconstructionnews.com/NYCN/NY-WTCSept01/NY-WTCdisasterpg12.htm>)

The Trade Center site was initially part of the Hudson River. Before the towers were built, the Port Authority of New York dug a ditch 3 feet wide and 70 feet deep around the 16-acre site. This huge ditch was subsequently filled with a concrete mixture to keep the water and eventually became known as the "bathtub". (Overbye, Dennis, "Eyes Focus on the Trade Center's "Bathtub" as Debris are Cleared", NY Times, December 4, 2001)

17,500 people living in Hudson and Essex counties who used PATH trains or buses to reach Lower Manhattan now spend an extra hour traveling each day, use two trains instead of one train or one bus, and pay an additional \$63 a month to reach their jobs. (Source: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/iotw/transportation/doc1.shtml>)

One person flying in an airplane for one hour is responsible for the same greenhouse gas emissions as a typical Bangladeshi in a whole year. (Source: [http://www.panda.org/climate/cutting\\_edge/nov01main.cfm](http://www.panda.org/climate/cutting_edge/nov01main.cfm)).

One percent of the water-storing capacity of the globe's reservoirs is being lost annually because of a build up of mud and silt. (Source: <http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?id=5727>)

Driving on roads in need of repair costs America's motorists \$23.7 billion a year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs, or \$134 per motorist. (Source: <http://www.rebuildamerica.org/reports/conditions.html>)

Annual trash from gift-wrap and shopping bags totals about 4 million tons. (Source: [Use Less Stuff Report](http://www.consciouschoice.com/issues/cc1311/greengiftwrap1311.html) -<http://www.consciouschoice.com/issues/cc1311/greengiftwrap1311.html>)

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You are receiving this electronic newsletter because you have come into contact with ICIS in some way-virtually, through signing our web site guest book, or physically, through meeting someone connected to ICIS at a workshop or conference.

ICIS was established in January 1998 with funding from the National Science Foundation. NYU is joined by three partnering institutions: Cornell University, Polytechnic University of New York, and the University of Southern California.

The INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER highlights innovative projects, practices, research and initiatives in the planning, financing, operation, and management of civil infrastructure systems. By focusing on innovation and collaboration among stakeholders, ICIS intends for the newsletter to both inform and connect various individuals and organizations from a range of disciplines and perspectives. It is also used to promote related infrastructure events and activities taking place around the country.

This monthly e-newsletter offers a number of short summaries and links to current innovative research, best practice, and policy issues and emphasizes the work of various stakeholder groups, including users and communities, academics and research institutions, and infrastructure professionals/practitioners, both public and private.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR STORIES OF INNOVATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND ANY UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCES OR EVENTS THAT WE CAN ADD TO OUR EVENTS CALENDAR.**

We also welcome comments or suggestions for future issues and encourage you to forward this newsletter on to colleagues and others who might be interested. Send your correspondence via email to [icis@nyu.edu](mailto:icis@nyu.edu).

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