

APRIL/MAY 2002

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>)

APRIL/MAY, 2002

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- ** New ICIS Web Site Launched!

ICIS would like to announce the launch of its new web site, <http://www.nyu.edu/icis>. In addition to information about the Institute, this site contains an exciting new functionality called the Information Exchange. The Information Exchange provides a central location where users, from infrastructure professionals, to community leaders to political decision-makers can both find information about infrastructure issues and disseminate their own work to a larger community. All users are encouraged to post their paper, web site, announcement for an event or any other online resource that seeks to bridge the gaps in our infrastructure systems knowledge base. We invite you to visit and explore the innovations being posted on the Information Exchange and to post your own favorites!

**** Korea Prepares for a Green World Cup**

The Korean Ministry of Environment is initiating some environmentally responsible planning for the upcoming Japan/South Korea Fifa World Cup this summer. As part of their environmental initiatives, they hope to run 2,500 compressed natural gas buses, clean public toilets, hire "Eco-Guides" and convert a former landfill into a park. For more on this, see

<http://www.smarturbantransport.com/index.cfm?li=silodisplay.cfm&siloid=4#809>

**** Environmental Law Institute Publishes "A Citizen's Guide to Using Federal Environmental Laws to Secure Environmental Justice"**

This new publication, released by the Environmental Law Institute, introduces communities and residents to introductory environmental law, and illustrates how they can use these laws to secure environmental justice. For more, see

<http://www.eli.org/>

**** Honda Develops New Solar Cell**

On April 11th, Honda reported development of a new solar cell that could reduce manufacturing costs by forty percent. The new cell, if used for twenty years by a household, will be cheaper than electricity. Honda is planning on using the solar cell in its own factories, and plans to have it on the market by 2003. For more, see

<http://www.solaraccess.com/news/story?storyid=1834>

**** Wind Turbines May Go to Sea**

Wind energy may soon be an offshore activity! As reported by Wired Magazine, new turbines are being created that will harness energy from strong offshore wind currents. The turbines are designed to be larger and more productive than turbines of the past. For more, and to see how they starting to use this technology in Stegness on the eastern coast of England, see

http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/10.05/windfarms_pr.html

**** 12 States Stall Smart Growth Initiatives in Response to Slow Economy**

A March report by the NRDC, Sprawlwatch and Smart Growth America found that due to the current economic situation, 12 states- Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin- may cut funding of smartgrowth, transit, or anti-sprawl initiatives. For more, see the sprawlwatch website at

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/news/article.asp?art=2566&state=52>

**** Environmental News Record Reports on the Top 500 Design Firms**

The Environmental News Record Reported on the Tops 500 Design Firms in its April 15th issue. The issue lists the top firms in a variety of fields, and shows how well infrastructure firms are handling the current recession. For more, see <http://www.enr.com/new/coverstry.asp>

**** Opening of Alameda Corridor**

Last week, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta hailed the opening of California's Alameda Corridor, a \$2.4 billion intermodal project that will significantly improve safety, economy, and mobility in the Los Angeles metro area. For more on this interesting project, see <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fhwa0902.htm> and <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/041202sp.htm>

**** Internet Savvy Cities**

Yahoo! Internet Life magazine released its list of Internet-Savvy Cities on April 16th. Silicon Valley took first place, but Boston, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, San Jose, and Austin also did well in this years competition, clinching the second to sixth spots. The magazine reports on which communities "make the most of the web" by looking at the local government's websites, total Internet use, and number of high-tech jobs. For more, see http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20020402/ap_on_hi_te/wired_cities_3

Local News

**** The Battle Over NYC Recycling**

After NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg said in February that he may cut large portions of the recycling program because it is not cost-efficient, the commentary on the subject has been extensive. The Gotham Gazette made garbage their Issue of the Week last week, New York Times Metro Section Columnist John Tierney has written on the subject, and the NRDC has launched "Save NYC Recycling" pages on their website. For a variety of different views, theories and opinions on this controversial issue, see the links below.

For Gotham Gazette articles on recycling, incinerators, and Fresh Kills, see <http://www.gothamgazette.com/arch.iotw.shtml>

For the costs of recycling and other information, see Natural Resources Defense Council website at <http://www.nrdc.org/cities/recycling/qnyc.asp>

For a slightly different view, see John Tierney's columns

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/16/nyregion/16BIG.html> (login required)
and

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/12/nyregion/12BIG.html> (login required)

**** Drought Emergency Requires Reactivation of Pumping Stations**

The current drought is putting pressure on NYC's drinking water supply, and the DEP is responding by reactivating twelve pumping stations in southeastern Queens. The new stations will provide 50 million gallons a day for NYC residents. For more, see http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-04-17/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-147855.asp

**** Straphanger's Campaign Ranks Subway Stations**

Union Square won the prize for best subway station in a survey of 15 major stations. Over 4,000 subway riders ranked the station on factors such as cleanliness, security and crowding. For the entire report, or to see how your station ranks, go to <http://www.straphangers.org/stationrelease02.html>

**** MTA Will Allow Subway Riders to Voice Complaints Via Email**

As reported by NY1, the MTA is upgrading its email system so that patrons can voice complaints via the internet. The MTA may also offer email updates on service changes and construction. See <http://www.ny1.com/ny/NewsBeats/SubTopic/index.html?topicintid=2&subtopicintid=5&contentintid=20551>

LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT REPORTS- POST 9/11:

**** New York New Visions**

New Visions, a "pro-bono group of architecture, engineering, planning, and design organizations committed to honoring the victims of September 11th tragedy by rebuilding of vital New York", released a document of recommendations for infrastructure, planning and design in the rebuilding of downtown. The document is meant as a guide for policy makers, governments officials, the Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation, and other planning and community groups and government agencies. Some of the main suggestions include creating mixed income development, improving mass transit, and designing sustainable buildings. For the entire report, see <http://c1.planning.org/news/pdf/nynvbook.pdf>

**** Listening to the City Report**

On February 7th, more than 600 people, from all walks of life, attended the Listening to the City meeting. Organized by the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, this "modern town hall" was meant to share and discuss ideas for the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan. The report of this event is now available on the Civic Alliance's website at <http://www.civic-alliance.org/pdf/Listening-finalreport.pdf>

**** AAF "Chinatown After September 11th: An Economic Impact Study"**

The Asian American Federation released a report entitled "Chinatown After September 11th: An Economic Impact Study" earlier this month. The report, using survey data and information from relief agencies, indicates that there has been a long lasting effect on the economy of Chinatown after September 11th. For the entire report, see <http://www.aafny.org/>

**** LMDC Principles for Action and Preliminary Blueprint for Renewal**

On April 9, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation released its Principles for Action and Preliminary Blueprint for Renewal, a report that identifies the goals of redevelopment after consultation with various stakeholders in Lower Manhattan. For more, see <http://www.renewnyc.com/index.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

**** 55% of American adults are cell phone users.**

(Source: Greenspan, Robyn. "Cell Phone Ownership Grows," The CyberAtlas Newsletter, April 2, 2002 Version 3.98)

**** Cell phone users are 25% more likely than the average adult to pay bills online and 22% more likely to purchase items or services on the web.**

(Source: Greenspan, Robyn. "Cell Phone Ownership Grows," The CyberAtlas Newsletter, April 2, 2002 Version 3.98)

**** The accumulated gap between actual and necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure by 2019 is likely to exceed \$650 million.**

(Source: Revkin, Andrew. "Federal Study Calls Spending on Water Systems Perilously Inadequate," New York Times. April 10, 2002.)

**** NYC's reservoirs are at 61% of capacity. This time of year, they should be at 95%.**

(Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-04-17/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-147855.asp)

**** NYC uses 1.3 billion gallons of water per day.**

(Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-04-17/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-147855.asp)

**** A poll conducted for Natural Resources Defense Council in 1997 found that roughly 80 percent of New York City residents were in favor of expanding recycling.**

(Source: www.nrdc.org)

**** Per capita, the US produces 6.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year. This number increased 3.4% from 1990 to 1997.**

(Source: <http://www.epa.gov>)

WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

VTPI Online Encyclopedia

The VTPI "Online TDM Encyclopedia" is a comprehensive resource that helps identify and evaluate innovative solutions to transportation problems. It has dozens of chapters with hundreds of pages of text and thousands of Internet links, providing convenient information for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) planning, evaluation and implementation. It is available free at <http://www.vtpi.org/tdm>.

Take the New Dream Consumption Quiz to see how much you know about American consumption patterns! Link to <http://www.newdream.org/cgi-bin/quiz.cgi?quiz=quiz>

ICIS EVENTS CALENDAR

Check out the new ICIS events calendar! Go to <http://www.nyu.edu/icis> and click on the information exchange.

Notable upcoming events include:

May 4: The Great Saunter Around Manhattan Island, 32 mile walk around Manhattan's rim. Start 7:15 at South Street and Fulton in downtown Manhattan. About 12 hours. See www.shorewalkes.org for more details.

May 12 - 19: NYC Bike Week. For more, see Transportation Alternatives Website at <http://www.transalt.org>

May 15: Waterfront 2002 Conference. For more, see <http://www.waterwire.net>, email carter@waterwire.net or call the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance 800-364-9943.

May 21 - September 15: Me, Myself and Infrastructure, An Exhibit Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the American Society of Civil Engineers. NY Historical Society. For more, see <http://nyhistory.org/index.html> or <http://www.asce.org/150/infrastructure/>

June 6 - 7: The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21st Century City. A Symposium to Celebrate and Continue the Work of William H. Whyte. For more see <http://www.umass.edu/ecologicalcities>
ICIS is a co-sponsor of this event.

June 9: Cruising the Gowanus Canal with Dan Wiley
For more information, Call (718) 788-8500, ext. 402.

June 24 - 25: MCEER Workshop: Lessons from the World Trade Center Terrorist Attack- Management of Complex Civil Emergencies and Terrorism-Resistant Civil Engineering Design. New York City, Elebash Recital Hall, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue. For more information, see <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/wtc/default.asp>
ICIS is a co-sponsor of this event.

You are receiving this electronic newsletter because you have come into contact with ICIS in some way-virtually, through our web site, 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 POST YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS OR CONFERENCES ON THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AT <http://www.nyu.edu/icis>.

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.
