

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2002**

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**THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER**  
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\*\*\*\* August/ September 2002 Issue \*\*\*\*

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.icisnyu.org/>)

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"It's not radios; it's infrastructure."

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**INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS**

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"U.S. Scrambles to Inspect Infrastructure"  
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"While protecting public infrastructure systems from potential disasters is not a new concept, owners and consultants have felt an urgent calling to this task since 9/11. Government agencies at all levels are assessing water, wastewater and power systems from top to bottom, looking for chinks in the armor and ways to upgrade security within budget constraints. Some owners initiated assessments long before 9/11, while others are now scrambling to meet federal deadlines." (McGraw-Hill Construction)

Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20020923a.jsp>

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"Bush Signs Order to 'Streamline' Transportation  
Projects' Environmental Reviews"  
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"President Bush has issued an executive order that directs federal agencies to accelerate environmental reviews of major transportation projects, but says that any such expediting should follow existing laws. The directive, issued on Sept. 18, says that federal agencies should take steps to carry out environmental reviews of transportation projects 'in a timely and environmentally responsible manner.' It also specifies that the secretary of transportation should develop "a list of high-priority transportation infrastructure projects" that should get accelerated reviews... In addition, the order calls for setting up a 'Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force' within the U.S. Dept. of Transportation to help agencies speed reviews or permits and 'identify and promote policies' to accelerate the process." (Engineering News-Record)

Source: <http://enr.construction.com/news/environment/archives/020919.asp>

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"US DOT Secretary Pledges Support for More Transit Funding"  
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"Calling a secure, efficient transportation system vital to economic recovery, U.S. Secretary Norman Y. Mineta told hundreds of gathered public transit officials Sept. 24 that \$3.4 million has been awarded to 83 agencies for full-scale emergency drills, \$145 million will be sought for improving disability access to transit facilities and broad application of reauthorized federal funds should be preserved." (McGraw-Hill Construction)

Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20020924a.jsp>

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"Secretary of Energy Announces International Agreement  
on the Future of Nuclear Energy Technologies"  
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"U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced today that the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), comprised of ten leading nuclear nations meeting in Japan this week, have reached agreement on six Generation IV nuclear energy systems to be pursued for joint development. Generation IV nuclear energy systems are next generation, advanced nuclear reactor and fuel cycle technologies available after this decade but before 2030 that represent significant advances in economics, safety, reliability, proliferation-resistance and waste minimization." (U.S. Department of Energy)

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases02/seppr/pr02185.htm>

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"The Riders Respond"  
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"Twenty years ago, [New York] City's subway service was in shambles: trains and buses frequently broke down, riders felt unsafe, and stations fell into disrepair... A recent customer satisfaction survey of New York City residents shows how dramatically times have changed... The survey, conducted annually by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, shows that subway service reliability and speed of travel are now among the highest-rated aspects of subway service." (Gotham Gazette)

Source: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/transportation/sep.02.shtml>

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"Bullet-Train Bonds Go to Voters in '04"  
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"Gov. Gray Davis signed legislation Thursday that will ask voters to decide whether the state should invest billions of dollars to build a 700-mile bullet train system. The proposed rail system would eventually connect most of the state's major cities with trains traveling up to 220 mph, becoming California's most ambitious and expensive public works project." (The Sacramento Bee)

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/4474106p-5494690c.html>

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"U.S. Car Buyers Stall on Hybrids"  
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"Hybrid electric vehicles, or HEVs, are gaining popularity, but their fuel economy and environmental benefits are not yet enough to win over price-conscious buyers in the key U.S. market, industry officials said on Wednesday. HEV models from Honda and Toyota, which use both a conventional engine and an electric motor, are becoming more common in the United States and could take off soon in Europe, according to U.S. executives at a four-day European-lead battery conference in Rome." (Wired News)

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,55078,00.html>

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"Fossil Fuel Burning Blamed for Parks Air Pollution"

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"The air above five of America's most famous national parks is often more polluted than that of many urban areas, finds a new report released today by three conservation groups. The National Park Service countered with its own report, finding that the results of a 10 year study show that air quality is improving or remaining stable in more than half of the national parks monitored. Both reports blame fossil fuel burning power plants, industrial facilities and motor vehicles for generating the smog and haze that threatens the health and beauty of the nation's parks." (Environment News Service)

Source: <http://ens-news.com/ens/sep2002/2002-09-23-06.asp>

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"New Law Revives Solar, Wind Power; Davis Signs Bill for Major Increase"

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"In a move that could make California a world leader in harnessing the sun and wind as sources for electricity, Gov. Gray Davis on Thursday signed legislation that will dramatically increase the state's use of renewable energy. California utilities like PG&E will be required to buy 20 percent of the megawatts they need to power the state from sources like wind farms and solar power under the new law." (The San Francisco Chronicle)

Source: <http://www.architectureweek.com/cgi-bin/wllk?http://www.cmdfirstsource.com/news/members/lnstory.asp?layout=story&gid=1430000943&cid=570004257&did=46RS-GDT0-00G9-2102-00000-00&b=s>

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"The Sustainable Metropolis:

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Three Reasons Some Corporations are Building Green"

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"Currently there are three known advantages to green design, and all of them have something to do with cost savings: energy and water conservation; healthier, more productive interior office environments; and new tax credits in several states, notably New York and California." (Metropolis Magazine)

Source: [http://www.metropolismag.com/html/sustainable/corps\\_building\\_green.html](http://www.metropolismag.com/html/sustainable/corps_building_green.html)  
Sustainability

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"Urban Sprawl And The Night Sky"

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"As cities flood themselves with ever more light, scientists worry about losing the night

sky and irrevocably disrupting nocturnal rhythms... Due to urban sprawl, bright artificial lights are drowning out the darkness in more and more of the world... Since the 1970s, scientists have been studying the effect of light on organisms' biological clocks and nocturnal behavior patterns... In response, nine U.S. states have adopted "dark sky" provisions and 11 more are considering similar measures." (Grist Magazine, Planetizen)

Source: <http://www.planetizen.com/news/item.php?id=7402>

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"Lewis and Clark Opens Green Dorms"  
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"Lewis & Clark College has opened three, apartment-style residence halls that have already attracted attention at national conferences for their sensitivity to the environment. Designed to respond to the natural environment of Palatine Hill and constructed with sustainable materials, the buildings are the first residence halls in the nation to be registered for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification." (The Business Journal, Portland)

Source: <http://www.architectureweek.com/cgi-bin/wllk?http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2002/09/09/daily44.html>

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"Smoggiest Cities In The Nation"  
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"California, Pennsylvania and Texas were the smoggiest states based on the number of exceedances of the health standard...This report, published by the U.S. Public Interest Research Groups (PIRG), examines 2001 air quality data from 42 states and the District of Columbia. San Bernardino County and the City of Houston were the smoggiest regions in the nation, with the highest number of residents exposed to unhealthy air conditions." (Planetizen)

Source: <http://www.planetizen.com/news/item.php?id=7429>

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FOCUS ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LOWER MANHATTAN  
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"At Last: Enlightened Ideas for the WTC Site"  
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"When the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. first released six plans for redeveloping the World Trade Center site in August, New York was served a heaping portion of mediocrity... New Yorkers dream of a place of daylight, beauty, and grandeur. The dream is what architecture can provide, and this Sunday, New York Times architecture

critic Herbert Muschamp and some of this city's brightest architectural minds have shown us what is possible." (Metropolis Magazine)

Source: [http://www.metropolismag.com/html/urbanjournal\\_0902/enlightened\\_ideas.html](http://www.metropolismag.com/html/urbanjournal_0902/enlightened_ideas.html)

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"9/11/01-02: An Unprecedented Attack on New York's Environment"  
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"One year after September 11th, experts believe that the collapse of the World Trade Center towers and the ensuing fires triggered one of the worst air pollution episodes in New York City's history." (Gotham Gazette)

Source: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/environment/91102.shtml>

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9/11/01-02: A Failure On 9/11, Life-Saving Innovations Afterwards  
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It would be easy to see technology as the bad guy in the events of September 11th... Rescue workers, several reports have concluded, were forced to rely on inadequate communication technology... The breakdown of technological infrastructure in the city -- electric, gas, broadcasting and telecommunication networks -- caused so many people so much frustration and anxiety... 'Over 50,000 government phone lines were disabled; 26 municipal buildings were shut down; Internet capability was severely disrupted.'" (Gotham Gazette)

Source: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/tech/91102.shtml>

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
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ICIS SPONSORED EVENTS:

Friday, October 25:

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Rudin Center 3rd Annual Tri-State Transit Symposium  
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New York, NY

The NYU-Wagner Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management's 3rd Annual Tri-State Transit Symposium will focus on MegaProjects within the tri-state region and beyond. Keynote speakers include Katherine Lapp, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). In addition, panels sessions of institutional and academic leaders will address two key topics: "Access to the

Region's Core: Alleviating the Growing Transportation Burden;" and "Lessons Learned: MegaProjects in the U.S. and Abroad."

Time: 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Cost: \$200, sponsorship opportunities available

Contact: 212.998.7544

Web: <http://www.nyu.edu/wagner/transportation/>

#### OTHER EVENTS:

Thursday, October 3:

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Grands Travaux: Its Legacies and Lessons  
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Are There Lessons Here for the World Trade Center Design?  
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New York, NY

Held in collaboration with The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, New York.

Location: Peter B. Lewis Theater, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City

Time: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Registration is from 8:45 to 9:30 AM.

Web: <http://www.nyplanning.org/travaux.html>

Thursday, October 3:

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Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation Fundraiser  
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New York, NY

"The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality's fifth annual fundraising auction, chaired by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, is dedicated to the theme of rebuilding New York through the hospitality industry. The funds will benefit WHEDCO, an organization that provided food for rescue workers and trained low-income people for jobs in the culinary industry after September 11." (Metropolis Magazine)

Location: New York City Fire Museum, 278 Spring St., New York.

Contact: 800.593.6394

Source: <http://www.metropolismag.com/html/events/index.html>

October 8-10:

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NGV 2002: Clean Transportation for a Livable World  
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Washington, DC

The only international event devoted exclusively to the natural gas vehicle industry, this is the 8th International and the 20th National Conference and Exhibition held.

Web: <http://www.ngvc.org/ngv/ngvc.nsf/bytitle/ngv2002.html>

Through October 10:

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Imagine New York: An Exhibition of Ideas

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New York, NY

Through October 10, this exhibit offers the best of Imagine New York's 18,000 plus collection of ideas for the future of the WTC site.

Location: The Municipal Art Society's Urban Center Galleries, 457 Madison Avenue (between East 50th and East 51st streets)

Hours: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Contact: 212.935.3960

October 15 & 16:

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Empire Energy & Environmental Exposition

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Albany, New York

"The Environmental Business Association of New York State hosts this event to showcase businesses that manufacture, sell, and install, and also consult on, alternative energy generation, energy efficiency and conservation, environmental remediation, alternative fuel, green building products, and pollution prevention and recycling equipment." (Smart Communities Network)

Web: <http://www.eba-nys.org/>

October 14-17:

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9th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems

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Chicago, Illinois

A gathering of ITS professionals and new cutting-edge technologies and ITS products. 14 companies from around the world will be in attendance, and a tour of real-life solutions in Chicago's state-of-the-art facilities will be offered. Peter Schutz, former President and CEO of Porsche AG will present.

Location: Lakeside Center at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois

Web: [www.itsworldcongress.org](http://www.itsworldcongress.org)

Thursday, October 17:

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Forum on WTC Environmental Health Research

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New York, NY

A forum on the impact of the WTC collapse and cleanup efforts on environmental health in Lower Manhattan. Sponsored by New York University, School of Medicine, the Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine and the NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center.

Location: BMCC Theater 1, 199 Chambers St., New York

Time: 7:00 to 10:00 PM

Contact: 845.731.3532

October 24 & 25:

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How to Turn a Place Around:

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A two-day training course on creating great public spaces, experienced through the neighborhoods of New York City

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New York, NY

"Project for Public Spaces, an international leader in the design and management of public space, is offering a two-day course on how to revitalize places in your community through our unique approach to place making. The course will promote a deeper understanding of what makes public spaces function and PPS's innovative methods of analyzing them." (Smart Communities Network)

Location: Roger Smith Hotel at 47th Street, New York, NY.

Contact: Harriet Festing at 212.620.5660, hfesting@pps.org

Web: [http://www.pps.org/nyc\\_training.htm](http://www.pps.org/nyc_training.htm) or contact.

October 25, 2002:

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Green Design -- The Whole Building Process

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Trenton, New Jersey

"The New Jersey Green Homes Office sponsors this presentation of green buildings case studies. The presentation will focus on: innovative building systems and integration techniques, financial benefits gained by comparison of initial cost with life cycle cost, ROI, energy saving, net operating income and personnel cost, green building guidelines, controls during the construction process and the future operation of a green building. The event is free, but registration is required." (Smart Communities Network)

Location: Trenton, New Jersey

Contact: Darren Port, [njgreenhome@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:njgreenhome@dca.state.nj.us)

Source: <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/cgi-bin/event/calendar.cgi>

October 30 through November 1:

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World Watershed Summit

Washington, DC

"ACWF in cooperation with USEPA, USDA, USGS and NOAA will host a national forum to bring together approximately 200 government and private sector leaders from throughout the United States and the world. This three-day forum will consist of a series of educational, work group and plenary sessions on technical and policy issues concerning international water resource protection issues." (Smart Communities Network)

Web: <http://www.yearofcleanwater.org/>

October 31 - November 3:

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Building Performance: Improving the Quality of the Built Environment  
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Washington, DC

Sponsored by the Building Performance Professional Interest Area of the American Institute of Architects.

Contact: Peg Hamil at AIA, 202.626.7317, [phamil@aia.org](mailto:phamil@aia.org)

Saturday, November 9:

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A Golden Anniversary in Land Use Law:  
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Revisiting *Golden v. Ramapo* (1972) and its Current Relevance  
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New York, NY

"A conference for lawyers, planners, local officials, and other professionals and citizens interested in solving land use problems. Topics covered include: land use planning, infrastructure development, home rule, regional planning, moratoria, affordable housing, non-point source pollution, succession and annexation, and local environmental protection." (APA NY Metro)

Time: 9:00 AM. to 4:15 PM

Web: <http://www.nyplanning.org/ramapo.html>

Ongoing:

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Building NYC: New York's Changing Landscape  
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Brooklyn, NY

Pictures of the construction and reconstruction of famous New York City architecture and infrastructure, including the Chrysler Building and Brooklyn Armory Tunnel. A theme of the cycle of building and rebuilding mirrors the tragedy of 9/11.

Location: Brooklyn Public Library Stage, 496 Grand Army Plaza

Hours: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Cost: Free  
Contact: 718.230.2100

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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Nicholas Scoppetta, Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department, commenting on the complexity of providing facilities to improve department communications in order to address post 9/11 problems: "It's not radios; it's infrastructure."

"He [Scoppetta] said he had been stymied, however, because new radios by themselves would not solve the problems. The firefighters also need a network of antennas and boosters, he said, and the department lacks basic information about what existing equipment it can share with the Police Department, or with internal communication systems used in many tall buildings. 'It's not radios; it's infrastructure,' Mr. Scoppetta said. 'We don't know yet what will be needed.'"

Source: Jim Dwyer, "Radio Problem Could Last Years, Fire Department Says," New York Times, September 18, 2002, p. A1.

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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.

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. Located at New York University, the ICIS consortium includes: NYU, Cornell University, Polytechnic University of New York, and the University of Southern California.

We welcome comments or suggestions for future issues and encourage you to forward this newsletter on to colleagues and others who might be interested. If you have trouble accessing the full articles of this edition, please send your correspondence via email to [icis@nyu.edu](mailto:icis@nyu.edu).