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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER - June 2002

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

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INFRASTRUCTURE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

June 24-25, 2002, MCEER Conference

The Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER), in collaboration with the National Research Council (NRC) and the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS) is organizing a workshop, Lessons from the World Trade Center Terrorist Attack: Management of Complex Civil Emergencies and Terrorism-Resistant Civil Engineering Design. The objective is to review whether knowledge developed during the past decades to enhance seismic resilience can be used to help achieve terrorism-resistant communities, and at the same time, investigate whether lessons can be learned from blast-resistant engineering to enhance earthquake engineering practice.

<http://mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/wtc/default.asp>

July 20, 2002, "Listening to the City II" Event

This historic gathering - called "Listening to the City II" - will give 5,000 participants an opportunity to consider plans for the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan and the creation of a permanent memorial to the victims of 9/11.

Listening to the City is being organized by the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, a coalition of more than 85 civic, business, environmental, community, university and labor groups, all committed to ensuring that community voices are heard in the plans to rebuild. ICIS is one of the sponsors of this event.

Make sure your voice is heard! Space is limited. Register today online at www.listeningtothecity.org or by calling 800-862-3154.

DID YOU KNOW?

Energy

“Current Geoexchange Heat Pump installations (650,000 in the U.S.) equal 14 million barrels of crude oil saved per year (<http://www.geoexchange.org/newsroom/facts.htm>).”

“Amount the World Bank has spent since 1992 on 212 projects to extract, transport, or burn fossil fuels: \$20,800,000,000” (www.harpers.org)

“Amount it has spent since then on its 30 projects involving renewable energy or energy efficiency: \$900,000,000” (www.harpers.org)

Environment

“Percentage of the EPA's 1,479 Superfund sites for which no cleanup plan exists: 56” (www.harpers.org)

Water

“Number of attendees at a New York City "drought awareness" workshop for landlords this spring: 4” (www.harpers.org)

“Number of states that reported drought conditions in March: 32” (www.harpers.org)

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS (Synopsis)

Environment

Climate Change Action Report 2002

The US EPA just released ‘The United States of America's Third National Communication Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’ report, that contains the results of a Cabinet-level review of U.S. climate change policy. President Bush requested working groups to develop innovative approaches that would: (1) be consistent with the goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere; (2) be sufficiently flexible to allow for new findings; (3) support continued economic growth and prosperity; (4) provide market-based incentives; (5) incorporate technological advances; and (6) promote global participation.

For the full report visit the EPA website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/car/index.html>

Land Use

Portland voters endorse growth boundaries

An Oregon state law that forbids urban sprawl by placing a limit on how far a city can extend itself was put to referendum in Portland on May 22. Local developers frustrated with the law's rules on housing density created a ballot measure they called the "Neighborhood Preservation Act." This initiative was an attempt to prevent Metro, the regional governing body that applies the law, from being able to require local governments to increase residential densities instead of increasing the urban boundaries placed on the city. The referendum failed, "57 percent against to 43 percent in favor, and the law remains in place."

Those opposed to the law complain that it creates a situation where homes are put in packed urban areas, and that housing prices are pushed up due to the building restrictions on certain land. Those favoring the law claim that it promotes both new housing within the city limits and a less urban character on the outskirts.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/NEWS/ARTICLES/portland.asp>

Water

Judge's Ruling Blasts Clean Water Act Change

Chief U.S. District Judge Charles Haden ruled on May 8 that the U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers exceeded their authority when the agencies rewrote Clean Water Act rules on May 3 to "legalize burying streams and wetlands with mining and construction debris."

"By changing the Clean Water Act rule, the EPA and the corps intended to remove a legal impediment to mountaintop removal mining, a form of mining underway in Appalachia that involves blasting off the tops of mountains and burying streams with the resulting rubble."

<http://www.americanrivers.org/pressrelease/mining050802.htm>

Congressional Budget Office issued its May 2002 report, Future Investment in Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

The report estimates water and wastewater infrastructure funding needs over the next twenty years of between \$492 billion to \$820 billion. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on May 24 released a summary of its report, "Future Investment in Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure." The Chairman and Ranking Members of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment (now known as the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials) requested the report during the 106th Congress. CBO acknowledged that water-system authorities believe that maintaining the United States' drinking and wastewater services will "necessitate substantial increased spending over the next twenty years" and focused on the debate "over the amount of money needed for future investment and the source of the funds." CBO estimates that from 2000-2019, annual costs for investment of the nation's water systems "will average between \$11.6 billion for drinking water systems and between \$13.0 billion and \$20.9 billion for wastewater systems." In contrast, the Water

Infrastructure Network (WIN) asserts that “up to \$26.3 billion a year would be needed to finance drinking water systems and up to \$24.2 billion would be needed for wastewater.” Differences in methodology in determining these estimates are discussed in the CBO report summary.

To view the CBO report, click on www.cbo.gov.

For the WIN report, click http://www.win-water.org/win_reports/reports.html. (JSR)

Energy

Energy Secretary Abraham Announces Recommendations to Modernize the Nation’s Electric Transmission System

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham recommended ways to facilitate investment in the Nation’s transmission infrastructure to “improve reliability and reduce electricity costs to consumers.” The recommendations contained in the National Transmission Grid Study were developed in response to the President’s National Energy Policy directive to Secretary Abraham to “study the Nation’s transmission system, identify transmission bottlenecks and identify measures to eliminate those bottlenecks.”

<http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases02/maypr/pr02080.htm>

300-Kilowatt Solar Power System Installed in Arizona

APS, Arizona's largest electric utility, dedicated a new 300-kilowatt solar electric system in Scottsdale, Arizona, last week. The new facility is supported in part by APS customers through the APS Solar Partners program. APS plans “to reach 3 megawatts of installed solar power capacity by the end of 2003.”

http://www.aps.com/general_info/newsrelease/newsreleases/NewsRelease_135.html

World Trade Center

Beyer Blinder Belle selected for WTC planning study

An urban design team led by New York firm Beyer Blinder Belle was selected today by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to provide what the Port Authority describes as “consulting services to the two agencies as they conduct an integrated urban design and transportation planning study for the World Trade Center site, adjacent areas and related transportation.”

Fifteen teams had submitted proposals for the job. The urban design team will be working in concert with Alexander Garvin, the LMDC vice president for planning, design, and development, to develop the plan. Beyer Blinder Belle, in association with Parsons Brinckerhoff, will be assisted by 11 sub-consultants with the following specialties:

Landscape Planning and Design: Olin Partnership

Economics and Programming: Urbanomics (WBE)

Civil and Subsurface Geotechnical: Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers

Security Planning: PACO Group Inc. (MBE)

Bus Transit Planning: Abrams-Cherwony & Associates

Traffic Forecasting: Philip Habib & Associates (WBE)

Traffic Database: SIMCO Engineering, P.C. (MBE)

Sustainable Design: Steven Winter Associates, Inc.
Structural Engineering: Ysrael A. Seinuk, P.C. (MBE)
Cost Estimating: VJ Associates (MBE)
3-D Computer Database: The Environmental Simulation Center, Ltd.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/NEWS/ARTICLES/bbb.asp>
<http://www.panynj.gov/pr/pressrelease.php3?id=219>

\$7.4 Billion Cost For Rebuilding Transportation Downtown

Rebuilding lower Manhattan's shattered transportation network will cost "about \$7.4 billion, the city-state agency leading the effort has revealed." Lou Tomson, executive director of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., unveiled the rough price tag Thursday for the first time during meetings with several key lawmakers in Washington, sources said yesterday. The delegation estimated it would cost \$2 billion to sink West St. from Chambers St. to the Battery Tunnel; \$2 billion for a new PATH terminal with airport-style moving sidewalks to nearby subways; \$1.3 billion for security improvements in subways; \$750 million for a new transit hub at Fulton St., and \$400 million to expand the antiquated South Ferry subway station. (New York Daily News)
http://www.gothamgazette.com/rebuilding_nyc/topics/rebuild_downtown/infrastructure.shtml

Technology

"Newt Gingrich Gets Small"

Newt Gingrich has seen the future, and it's molecular. Calling nanotechnology "the investment with the largest payoff over the next 50 years," the former speaker of the House of Representatives and current nanotech evangelist opened the NanoBusiness Spring 2002 conference Monday with a keynote address on the industry's future.

Speaking to a room packed with suited nano-engineers and corporate-casual venture capitalists, Gingrich compared nanotech to the steam engine, warning that nations that didn't invest in industrial infrastructure in the 18th century soon ceased to have influence on the world stage.

"The U.S. produces too many lawyers and too few scientists," he said to sustained applause from half the audience. "Without the influx of European and later Asian science students in the 20th century, the United States' science growth would have stagnated long ago." The former Republican partisan even had a few words of praise for the Clinton administration, calling its National Nanotechnology Initiative "one of the better things the government has done." (Wired Magazine)

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,52673,00.html>

Transportation

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mineta Announces Successful Test of New Technology To Secure Cargo Movement in U.S. Ports

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced the successful completion of a test of new technology that will help to secure cargo containers entering

ports and border crossings throughout the United States.

The test, carried out through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, "involved the use of electronic seals (E-Seals), a radio frequency device that transmits shipment information as it passes reader devices and indicates if a container has been compromised."

"This new technology will help to enhance the security of our nation's transportation system by enabling us to track cargo shipments into the United States," Secretary Mineta said. "E-Seals are just one part of our department's security-focused program that applies both technology and human capital to safeguard America's transportation system."

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fhwa2302.htm>

London: Is the mayor making congestion worse so that people will welcome tolls?

At seven o'clock in the morning of February 17th next year, a ring of 200 cameras, linked to computers programmed to recognize license plates, will start scanning 40,000 number plates an hour. The 250,000 motorists who drive into 21 square kilometres (eight square miles) of the city centre between 7am and 6.30pm every day will have to pay £5 a day for the privilege. Those who fail to do so will face an automatic £80 penalty unless they fall into one of several exempt categories, such as taxi drivers or nurses on duty.

London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, needs the scheme to be seen to work. He is up for re-election in two years' time, and has staked his political future on congestion-charging. (Economist Magazine, www.economist.com)

http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1155093

INFRASTRUCTURE EVENTS

The 'Information Exchange' section of the ICIS web site offers a listing of major national and international events on civil infrastructure systems with links to more detailed event information. Please visit the Information Exchange at www.nyu.edu/icis for more information on upcoming events as well as recent publications.

May 21 - September 15, 2002

ME, MYSELF AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Originally to have been presented at the World Financial Center in Spring 2002, this exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Society of Civil Engineers is a citizen-consumer's eye view of the built environment. The collapse of the World Trade Center and its effect on life in the city has awakened new interest among New Yorkers in the infrastructure on which their survival depends. Innovatively designed by Chicken and Egg Productions, this Infrastructure's real-life approach will surprise the public by demonstrating that infrastructure is much more than a network of beams, pipes and roadways. It encompasses not only technological processes but the social processes behind its creation. Presented by the New York Historical Society (www.nyhistory.org). For more information please call (212) 873-3400.

June 24, 2002

COMMERCE'S NIST TO SEEK PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PENDING FEDERAL

INVESTIGATION OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER

The Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will hold a public meeting in New York City on June 24, 2002, as part of the effort to gather comments and suggestions related to the scope of its pending building and fire safety investigation of the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster that followed the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The pending NIST investigation will include the building construction, the materials used and the technical conditions that combined to cause the WTC disaster.

The meeting-rescheduled from April 22, 2002-will be held at the Marriott New York East Side Hotel, located at 525 Lexington Ave. in New York City from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information go to www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/n02-03.htm

July 13, 2002, 10:30AM-12:30PM

BOAT TOUR: ON THE WATERFRONT

A guided boat exploring the changing waterfront infrastructure and changing landscape of lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Jersey City shoreline with experts Holly Haff (affiliate of ICIS), Arthur Imperitore (NY Waterway), Suzanne Mack (Hudson Transportation Management Association), and Christopher Ward (Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection).

Tickets are \$35/\$30 for Historical Society or ASCE members. For more information please call (212) 873-3400.

Ongoing

US AND RUSSIA COLLABORATIVE LINKAGE GRANTS

A program of scientific and technological cooperation between NATO countries and Russia has been developed, following signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation drawn up between NATO and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Russian Federation (now the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology). This program gives scientists in Russia and the NATO countries the possibility of applying for support in the above areas for Collaborative Linkage Grants and Expert Visits, or to organize Advanced Research Workshops. The areas are: Plasma Physics, Plant Biotechnology, and Forecast and Prevention of Catastrophes.

Selection of applications is based on peer review, and applications are considered by a NATO-Russia Advisory Panel appointed by the JSTC Committee. The Advisory Panel meets twice each year. Visit website for more info:

www.nato.int/science/e/russia/info.html

WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

www.zedfactory.com

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. Send your correspondence via email to icis@nyu.edu.
