

OCTOBER 2002

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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER
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***** October 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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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS
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ENERGY

"New York City's Largest Commercial Solar Power System Unveiled"

The "Result of innovative NYSERDA, Con Edison, Clean Air Communities, Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, the system was built and installed by PowerLight Corporation of Berkeley, California, using state-of-the-art solar technology and zinc bromide batteries. The photovoltaic panels and advanced battery will collectively work as a solar energy system to generate and store electricity in coordination with Con Edison's network system." (Clean Air Communities)

Source: <http://www.cleanaircommunities.org/press/021007-gmdc.html>

"Architecture On The Solar Frontier"

"Clean, free and so abundant that in a single day the sunlight falling on the United States contains more than twice the amount of energy the nation uses in an entire year, solar energy is the way... 14 college and university teams have squared off for the final two weeks of a competition more than four years in the making - to design and build the most efficient, livable and aesthetically inviting home possible, run entirely by the sun."

(Planetizen)

Source: <http://www.planetizen.com/news/item.php?id=7496>

TRANSPORTATION

3rd Annual Tri-State Transit Symposium

The 3rd Annual Tri-State Transit Symposium: MegaProjects within the NY Metropolitan Region and Abroad was held on October 25, 2002. The event was organized by the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy & Management and the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS), both of which are affiliated with NYU's Wagner Graduate School of

Public Service. The symposium was held in affiliation with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the University Transportation Research Center at City College and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. Among the local megaprojects discussed were MTA's plans to construct the Second Avenue subway line and an extension of the Number 7 subway line west of 8th Avenue; MTA's study for improving the I-287 corridor; and NJ Transit's plans to integrate rail travel in New Jersey. Together, estimates for these projects extend into the billions of dollars. Similarly, a number of presentations about megaprojects in other cities around the world were made. These included the construction of a new commuter rail line in Paris titled Est Ouest Liaison Express (EOLE); Hong Kong's new international airport and related infrastructure projects; and the politics of Boston's Central Artery/Tunnel project. The symposium ended with a keynote address on implications of reauthorization for the New York region by Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation. A summary of the symposium will be available on the ICIS web page (<http://www.nyu.edu/icis>).

The Alameda Corridor: "The Train Lane"

"With the elimination of more than 200 at-grade roadway crossings, the Alameda Corridor-a \$2.4-billion rail cargo expressway in Los Angeles-will carry 100 freight trains in and out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach every day." (Civil Engineering)

Source: <http://www.pubs.asce.org/ceonline/ceonline02/0902feat.html>

The Electric Car: "Why This Isn't the Car of Tomorrow"

"For as long as anyone can remember, the emission-free battery-powered car has been touted as a cleaner, greener alternative to the dirty old internal combustion engine. In all but a handful of exceptions, that vision remains resolutely on the drawing board. And now there are grave doubts whether it will ever go any further. Last month, Ford announced it was ditching its zippy little battery-powered two-seater, the Ford Think, only a year after it was launched in the UK." (BBC News)

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2309397.stm>

"New York Officials Push Hard For More Federal Funding For Transportation Megaprojects"

"New York City-area transportation officials urged a local construction group today to help lobby for a fair--and lion's--share of reauthorized funding in the next version of TEA-21. Speaking at a Professional Women In Construction forum, officials from federal, state and advocacy agencies noted that with scarce sources of funding and fewer Congressional champions of New York transportation, emphasizing the area as a security

target and densely populated business center would be vital in garnering federal support for big-ticket construction projects." (Engineering News-Record)
Source: <http://www.enr.com/news/transportation/archives/021010.asp>

"Ventura County Bridge Project to Test Caltrans Engineers' Metal"

"The Santa Clara River bridge project holds a special significance for Freeman and Buha because Caltrans will be testing a new, high-capacity piling system that promises to drive bigger piles into the ground to hold up bridges. If it works, fewer steel pilings will be needed to support bridges subject to severe scouring, or erosion. Eventually, it could save taxpayers millions of dollars and months of construction, Caltrans officials said." (LA Times)

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-bridge13oct13.story?null>

"Hoboken Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Open for Business"

"Yesterday proved to be a bustling first day at the city's Hudson-Bergen Light Rail station, as commuters jumped on and off trains headed for Jersey City and Bayonne, gleefully celebrating the trolley system's newest addition." (NJ.com)

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-0/103338066592440.xml>

"Portland Transportation Statistics Mixed"

"Portland stood out among a handful of regions where automobiles declined in importance. Bus commuting grew 41 percent, while the numbers of bicycle riders and people working at home each grew 54 percent -- well ahead of the 27 percent growth in people driving alone. Despite that, the region remains as car-dependent as Puget Sound and Southern California." (Oregonian)

Source: <http://www.planetizen.com/news/item.php?id=7542>

"UK Contractors Install Composite Highway Bridge Near Oxford"

"Bridge construction passed a significant milestone with the installation of Europe's first plastic span built for a highway, according to the designer. Bridges of polymer reinforced with glass and carbon fibers have until now been intended primarily for pedestrian use. But the 10-meter span deck put in place this month near Oxford, England, is designed for axle loads of 40 tonnes, the heaviest allowed." (McGraw Hill Construction)

Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20021014i.jsp>

"Bush Backs Emissions Law Opponents"

"Automakers opposed to California's requirement that a percentage of passenger vehicles sold in the state achieve zero emissions - meaning reliance on all-electric cars - have won the support of the Bush administration. Federal law overrides any state effort to regulate fuel economy for cars and trucks, the Justice Department said." (NRDC)
Source: <http://www.nrdc.org/news/newsDetails.asp?nID=786>

WATER

"Tampa Bay Taps New Sources To Stem Groundwater Depletion"

"Tampa Bay Water is reaching several significant milestones on a multiyear, multimillion-dollar program to develop, store, treat and transport new sources of potable water. A 66-million-gal-per-day surface water plant started production last month... a 1,100-acre regional reservoir that will begin storing 15 billion gallons of water when complete in August 2004. A 25-mgd seawater desalination plant is near completion..." (Engineering News-Record)
Source: <http://www.enr.com/features/environment/archives/021014.asp>

"Environment: Salt Water for Irrigation? Yes"

"Tackling the crisis of the rapid global depletion of fresh water is a gargantuan task, but the "biggest little research center in the world" is responding to that challenge. The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is developing alternatives to society's reliance on and waste of fresh water by formulating sustainable agricultural systems that make use of readily available saline water." (The Earth Times)
Source: http://www.earthtimes.org/oct/environsaltsaltwateroct1_02.htm

"TreePeople's Innovative Urban Forest Water Management Project"

"Why plant a tree? For almost 30 years, Andy Lipkis has been addressing this simple, yet powerful, question. Through his organization, TreePeople, Lipkis has researched and demonstrated that trees can be efficient and effective in solving eco-system problems. Recently, TreePeople began their most ambitious project yet-planting an urban forest in Sun Valley to address the single greatest flood risk area in the County." (The Planning Report)
Source: <http://www.ablinc.net/tpr/archive/sept2002b.html>

SOLID WASTE

"California Recycles a Profitable Idea"

"Ever thought of owning a floor made from old telephone poles? How about a flowerpot manufactured from used plastic milk jugs? No, these items aren't produced by a group of second-graders. They are high-quality, attractive products made from recycled material, and they're just a sampling of the offerings at the RecycleStore (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/recyclestore)." (NRDC)
Source: <http://www.nrdc.org/news/newsDetails.asp?nID=784>

GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE

"Quiet Down! Amid Fears of Health Hazards, Cities Confront Noise Pollution"

"Something like 85 percent of all the calls to our quality-of-life complaint line are about noise,' said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg has just ordered a crackdown on car alarms, motorcycles and noisy nightclubs, and police have been setting up checkpoints with handheld noise meters. Fines begin at \$45, and can go into the thousands for really troublesome businesses." (ABC News.com)
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/D>

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FOCUS ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LOWER MANHATTAN

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"Rebuilding Lower Manhattan: Residents Oppose Tunnel"

"Residents of Battery Park oppose a West Street tunnel fearing that it will isolate the neighborhood." (Planetizen). "The nascent Coalition to Save West Street has raised a discomfiting specter for rebuilding officials: a fight over what could be a centerpiece of the redevelopment of long-blighted areas south of the World Trade Center site... Many rebuilding officials, including some at the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and at some of the architecture and urban planning firms hired to work on the proposal, say they have not heard much opposition to the West Street tunnel." (New York Times)
Source: <http://www.planetizen.com/news/item.php?id=7464>

"LMDC Announces 6 Teams of Architects and Planners to Participate in Design Study of WTC Site"

"The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation today announced that some of the world's most talented architects and planners will come together this fall to participate in a design study of the World Trade Center site and adjacent areas. Six teams were chosen

from among 407 submissions, representing 34 nations. The six teams include a total of 27 different firms, individual architects and artists who count among their accomplishments such works as the Getty Center in Los Angeles; the Jewish Museum in Berlin; the Morgan Stanley World Headquarters in New York; the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki; MoMa Queens in Long Island City; and the Yokohama International Port Terminal in Japan. " (LMDC)

Source: <http://www.renewnyc.com/press/09-26-02.htm>

"Famous Works by the Six New Design Teams Picked For Ground Zero"

The Gotham Gazette features an informative slideshow of the six architectural teams chosen by the LMDC.

Source: http://www.gothamgazette.com/rebuilding_nyc/features/sixteams.shtml

"Planners Briefed on WTC Redevelopment"

"The six teams of architects and planners selected by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. to develop schemes for the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site and its surroundings were briefed Oct. 10 on more flexible program guidelines recently developed by LMDC and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, which owns the World Trade Center land." (McGraw Hill Construction)

Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20021011e.jsp>

"Gridlock on the Transportation Discussions"

"From the beginning of the redevelopment efforts, there has been a broad consensus that rethinking downtown's transportation system is a key to revitalizing Lower Manhattan. Thus, a great deal of thought and effort on the part of officials and civic organizations has addressed how to create a more efficient transportation nexus that connects more diverse and far-reaching intermodal transportation network. Unfortunately, squabbling between City and State organizations -- mainly over finances -- is slowing down this process more and more, leaving many questions open." (Reconstruction Report)

Source: <http://reconstructionreport.org/article.pl?sid=02/10/09/2053225&mode=thread>

"LMDC's 'New' Requirements"

The Reconstruction Report provides a rundown of the new program requirements created by the LMDC to guide the six design teams.

Source: <http://reconstructionreport.org/article.pl?sid=02/10/12/238206&mode=thread>

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UPCOMING EVENTS
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Wednesday, October 30, 2002

World Trade Center Recovery Site Engineering Challenges

New York, NY

A free slide lecture is given by Port Authority of NY and NJ engineering program manager Peter Rinaldi, PE.

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Location: NYPL Science, Industry and Business Library, 188 Madison Ave. & 34th St., Murray Hill

Contact: 212.592.7000

Friday, November 1 through Saturday, November 2

Planning into Practice: A Conference for Community
Groups, Planners, Funders and City Agencies

New York, NY

The Municipal Art Society and Hunter College Urban Affairs and Planning are sponsoring "Planning into Practice," a 2-day event that will focus on strategies for implementing community-initiated plans. The-conference will include 20 workshops, providing an opportunity to network with community-based organizations, elected officials, city agencies, technical service providers and financial institutions. The keynote speaker is Amanda M. Burden, Chair, New York City Planning Commission. Some of the conference panelists include: Tony Avella & Gale Brewer, New York City Council, Eddie Bautista, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Barbara Weisberg, New York City Department of City Planning

Shirley McRae, Brooklyn Community Board 2, and Marilyn Gelber, Independence Community Foundation. The moderator is Ron Shiffman, from the Pratt Center for Community & Environmental Development.

Cost: \$10 before October 30 and \$15 at the door (includes breakfast & lunch on both days)

Location: Brookdale Campus of Hunter College 425 East. 25th St. (at 1st Avenue)

Web: <http://www.mas.org/PlanningCenter/#events>

Contacts: RSVP at 212.750.3972 or planning@mas.org

Sunday, November 3 through Thursday, Novemebr 7

American Society of Civil Engineers Annual Conference & Exposition

Washington, D.C.

The ASCE Annual Conference features 18 tracks and more than 160 sessions, including a Professional Practice SuperTrack. NBC's Tim Russert, Moderator of "Meet the Press," will serve as the keynote speaker, and President George W. Bush (invited) will offer a major address. A special Federal Forum, with facilities operations heads from the USACE, NAVFAC, GSA, Department of State, and The Smithsonian Institution will feature luncheon speaker

Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation.

Web: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/annual02/>

Tuesday, November 5 through Thursday, November 7

The Infrastructure Security Partnership:

1st Annual Congress on Infrastructure Security for the Built Environment

Washington, D.C.

The TISP Congress features 10 plenaries and 8 tracks with 16 technical presentations. Office of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge will speak, and a special presentation will be given by Leslie Robertson, Structural Engineer for the World Trade Center. The event offers a networking reception for interaction with colleagues.

Web: <http://www.tisp.org/isbe/>

Friday, November 8, 2002

APA World Town Planning Day

"The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) endorses World Town Planning Day as a strategy to promote a broad-based awareness, support, and advocacy of community and regional planning among the general public and all levels of government through activities in recognition of American accomplishments on World Town Planning Day, November 8 of each year." (APA).

Visit the APA web site for more information:

<http://www.planning.org/worldtown/default.htm>

Monday, November 18

Managing NYC's Waste: A Scientific and Policy
Analysis of the Waste-to-Energy Option

New York, NY

"When the giant Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island was closed in 2001, New York City became utterly dependent on other states for the disposal of over three million tons of municipal solid wastes annually. As a result, the annual costs of waste disposal have

jumped up over three hundred million dollars in recent years and are projected to increase much more in the near future. Meanwhile, the City's economic position has never been more precarious. An option that has been raised by City officials for mitigating this vulnerable dependence on decisions to be made in other states (where the receipt of NYC waste may have significant local consequences on transportation and other systems) is Waste-to-Energy. The substantive impacts of WTE, both in itself and in comparison to out-of-state landfilling, will be evaluated by experts in public health, technology and policy." The panel members include ICIS Director Rae Zimmerman, Alan Eschenroeder, School of Public Health, Harvard, Walt Stevenson, EPA Office of Air Quality & Standards, Combustion Group, and Nickolas Themelis, Director, Earth Engineering Center, Columbia University. Steven Cohen, Director, Executive MPA Program, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, will serve as moderator. A wine-and-cheese reception will follow the panel presentations. Attendance is free, but because space is limited, a reservation is required. (NY Academy of Sciences)

Time: 3.30-6.30 P.M.

Location: The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd St., New York, NY

Contact: To reserve, contact nymeetings@nyas.org or phone 212.838.0230 x322; or earth@columbia.edu

Wednesday, November 20 through Sunday, November 24

Waters & Shores

Baltimore, MD

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning annual conference in Baltimore, MD features over 180 sessions, 10 mobile workshops, and numerous receptions. There are several committee meetings with Governor Glendening, who will be speaking at the event. Conference topics include 9/11 and its aftermath.

Web: www.acsp.org

January 12-16, 2003

Transportation Research Board 82nd Annual Meeting

Washington, D.C.

TRB's annual meeting features 450 formal sessions and over 300 committee meetings throughout the event. Over 8,500 transportation professionals are expected to attend. The program will spotlight four themes of special interest: security, congestion, safety and reauthorization. The conference covers all transportation modes.

Deadline for Advanced Registration: November 30, 2002

Web: <http://www4.trb.org/trb/annual.nsf>

Contact: 310.694.5243

Ongoing

Industrialization and the American Landscape

Jersey City, NJ

"Archival objects reveal how immigration, industrialization, commerce, material culture and aesthetic production merge to form... American culture. See these 4 exhibits, We-Su, thru Nov. 3, Dec. 31, Jan. 31 and Aug. 31, respectively." (Jersey City Museum)

Location: Jersey City Museum, 350 Montgomery St. (PATH Grove Street Station)

Contact: 201.413.0303

E-mail: info@jerseycitymuseum.org

Ongoing through January

Building Structures

Long Island City, NY

"A group show of local and international artists employing a wide range of materials to fabricate new expressions of space and urban planning or to re-adapt and merge the concepts, ideas and language of architecture into innovative sculptural reconfigurations, on view Th-Mo." (PS1)

Location: PS1 Contemporary Art Center, 22-25 Jackson Ave. and 46th Ave., Long Island City

Contact: 718.784.2084

Web: www.ps1.org

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WEB FEATURE OF THE MONTH
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A Metropolis Magazine Special:
"The Sustainable Metropolis"

A variety of information regarding sustainable ideas, projects and their innovators.

<http://www.metropolismag.com/html/sustainable/index.html>

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.

