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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER
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*** December 2003 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.nyu.edu/icis>)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ICIS!

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WEB FEATURE OF THE MONTH: "Community Information Technology Initiative"

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS
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ENERGY

"Freedom Tower Plan for WTC Site"

Plans for the World Trade Center's Freedom Tower were recently unveiled, and now include windmills that generate 20 percent of the electric power used by the building.

"Freedom Tower Plan for WTC Site," BBC News, December 19 2003. 22 December 2003.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3333955.stm>

"Thousands in San Francisco Without Power"

A blackout Saturday evening left 120,000 San Francisco residents without power. As of late Sunday, 24,000 remained without electricity.

Associated Press, "Thousands in San Francisco Without Power," New York Times, December 21, 2003. 22 December 2003.
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-San-Francisco-Outage.html?ex=1073060282&ei=1&en=6c1ec48d7d7b78fb>

"EPA Nears Proposing Mercury Emissions Rule"

The EPA is proposing a "cap and trade" option for power plant emissions of mercury, and environmentalists are claiming the agency's plan fails to adequately address mercury emissions problems.

Ichniowski, T. and Powers, M.B., "EPA Nears Proposing Mercury Emissions Rule," Engineering News-Record, December 5 2003. 17 December 2003.
<http://www.enr.com/news/environment/archives/031205.asp>

"Green Civil War"

Proposals for wind farms are exciting considerable controversy in the US and UK, dividing environmentalists and bringing accusations of NIMBYism.

Murray, Ian, "Green Civil War," Tech Central Station, November 26 2003. 16 December 2003.
<http://www.techcentralstation.com/112603C.html>

WATER & WASTEWATER

"GAO Survey Outlines Drinking Water Security Vulnerabilities"

A report released by the GAO in early December reviews security threats to drinking water supplies, finding that distribution facilities, water supplies, information systems and stored chemicals are some of the most vulnerable components of the infrastructure. View the GAO Report at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0429.pdf>

Ichniowski, Tom, "GAO Survey Outlines Drinking Water Security Vulnerabilities," Engineering News-Record, December 4 2003. 17 December 2003.
<http://www.enr.com/news/environment/archives/031204.asp>

"Desalination Dispute Leaves a Bitter Taste"

A federal judge ordered the use of mediation in an argument between Tampa Bay Water and Covanta Construction in bringing a 25-million-gallon-per day desalination plant to full operation.

Wright, Andrew G., "Desalination Dispute Leaves a Bitter Taste," Engineering News-Record, December 8 2003. 17 December 2003.
<http://www.enr.com/news/environment/archives/031208.asp>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

"Time Warner to Use Cable Lines to Add Phone to Internet Service"

Reflecting a recent trend of cable companies' move into providing a greater suite of services, Time Warner staked a deal with Sprint and MCI to send calls over its cable lines. Time Warner is expecting to provide telephone services in most of its major markets by the end of next year.

Richtel, Matt. "Time Warner to Use Cable Lines to Add Phone to Internet Service," New York Times, December 9, 2003. 16 December 2003.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/09/technology/09PHON.html>

"Cerritos, Calif., Goes Wireless Citywide"

The largest Wi-Fi deployment in the U.S. is occurring in Cerritos, CA, where citywide wireless internet access is being brought to residents. Eventually, users will be able to connect to the network anywhere in the city, an 8.6 square mile range.

"Cerritos, Calif., Goes Wireless Citywide," Associated Press, Yahoo! News, December 11 2003. 16 December 2003.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=562&ncid=738&e=8&u=/ap/20031211/ap_on_hi_te/wi-fi_city

"Using a Bicycle to Uplink on a Downtown Platform"

Yuri Glitman, a teaching artist at Parsons School of Design, in collaboration with Eyebeam, sent the first e-mail from the New York City subway system, utilizing his Magicbike creation, a bicycle complete with networking gear that connects to and amplifies local Wi-Fi connections. The result is an interesting new way to approach wireless connectivity.

Gallagher, David, "Using a Bicycle to Uplink on a Downtown Platform," December 15 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/15/technology/15wifi.html>?

TRANSPORTATION

"Traffic Flow Is Crucial Part of Debate at Trade Center"

Controversy in the rebuilding of the World Trade Center extends to transportation issues, as decisions being made will influence everything from truck deliveries to buses, taxis, cars and emergency vehicles will be able to access the area.

Dunlap, David, "Traffic Flow Is Crucial Part of Debate at Trade Center," New York Times, December 15 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/15/nyregion/15TRAF.html>

"Long-Delayed AirTrain Makes First Run"

The long awaited AirTrain was opened this past week, connecting New York City's Kennedy Airport to Jamaica station.

Luo, Michael, "Long-Delayed AirTrain Makes First Run," New York Times, December 18 2003. 22 December 2003. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/18/nyregion/18AIR.html>

"Europe-Africa Rail Tunnel Agreed"

A 39 kilometer tunnel beneath the Mediteranean Sea will link Africa and Europe, according to an agreement recently signed between Spain and Morocco.

"Europe-Africa Rail Tunnel Agreed," BBC News, December 14 2003. 22 December 2003. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3317149.stm>

"The Economic Benefits of the Second Avenue Subway"

A study by the Regional Plan Association examines the economic benefits of the proposed Second Avenue Subway in New York City.

Regional Plan Association, "The Economic Benefits of the Second Avenue Subway," December 2003. 22 December 2003. <http://www.rpa.org/pdf/2ndAvenue.pdf>

"Governor [Schwarzenegger] Eyes Cuts to Transit Projects"

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed cutting \$5.4 billion in state support of highway and transit, and shifting \$1 billion in funding for transportation initiatives over to the state general fund, threatening numerous CA transportation initiatives and projects.

Bernstein, S., Streeter, K., and Liu, K., "Governor Eyes Cuts to Transit Projects," LA Times, December 12, 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-roads12dec12,1,1216380.story?coll=la-headlines-california>

"The Key to Good Health is Not in the Ignition:
Portland, Oregon Tries a New Tool to Reduce Car Travel"

Despite Portland's urban growth boundaries and impressive light rail and transit system, vehicle miles traveled have doubled since the '80s, and more people are driving alone in their cars. In response, the city experiments with some interesting ideas to reduce car travel.

Gordon, Lavinia, "The Key to Good Health is Not in the Ignition: Portland, Oregon Tries a New Tool to Reduce Car Travel," Planners Network, Fall 2003. 16 December 2003.
<http://www.plannersnetwork.org/htm/pub/archives/fall03/gordon.htm>

"Passenger Ferries, Air Quality, & Greenhouse Gases:
Can System Expansion Result in Fewer
Emissions in the San Francisco Bay Area?"

This study examines the impacts of passenger ferry emissions on air quality, using the San Francisco Bay Area as a model for transportation analysis. Findings show that though emissions can be significant, low-emission technology solutions exist and are currently utilized in Europe, presenting no serious impediments to commercialization for U.S. passenger ferries.

CALSTART, "Passenger Ferris, Air Quality, & Greenhouse Gases: Can System Expansion Result in Fewer Emissions in the San Francisco Bay Area?" CALSTART, July 23, 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.calstart.org/info/publications/ferryreport/ferryreport.pdf>

"Transportation Secretary Mineta Signs
Far-reaching Maritime Agreement With China"

An extensive 5-year agreement was signed by the United States and China earlier this month. The maritime trade agreement grants U.S. shipping companies the ability to perform a range of new business activities in China, expanding economic opportunities between the two countries.

Office of Public Affairs, U.S. DOT, "Transportation Secretary Mineta Signs Far-reaching Maritime Agreement With China," Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation, December 8 2003. 16 December 2003.
<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/marad3203.htm>

"Maglev Sets Speed Record of 581 kph"

A three car maglev train operated by Central Japan Railway Co. reached a record speed of 581 kph (361 mph) in early December.

"Maglev Sets Speed Record of 581 kph," The Japan Times Online, December 3 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nb20031203a1.htm>

GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE

"The Sidewalks of New York"

Who is responsible for the city's sidewalk infrastructure? An interesting look at the lack of overarching policy for New York City's 12,000 miles of sidewalk.

Angotti, Tom. "The Sidewalks of New York," Gotham Gazette, December 2003. 16 December 2003. <http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/landuse/20031216/12/806>

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UPCOMING EVENTS
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Sunday, January 11 through Thursday, January 15, 2004

"Transportation Research Board 83rd Annual Meeting"

Washington, D.C.

TRB hosts its 83rd annual meeting, where close to 9,000 participants are expected, and 2,200 presentations in over 500 sessions will be available. Themes this year include "Renewing the Transportation Infrastructure," "Security: Measures That Can Really Make a Difference," and "Funding: Reauthorization and Beyond" (TRB).

For more information: <http://www4.trb.org/trb/annual.nsf>

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

"Beyond Light and Air: Zoning as a
Tool of Social and Economic Reform"

New York, NY

"What has the City learned from past efforts to use zoning to protect certain industries and uses, such as the garment industry and arts-related uses? Are efforts to preserve manufacturing through zoning regulation destined to fail in the face of a changing economy, or are they just being done wrong? What can New York learn from other cities? Panelists will discuss the effectiveness of zoning regulations in preserving certain industries and protecting or encouraging other land uses in New York City, with a look at approaches taken by other major cities" (Committee on Land Use Planning and Zoning). Sponsored by the Committee on Land Use Planning and Zoning. Moderators include Stuart Beckerman (Slater & Beckerman, LLP) and Margaret Stix (Associate Director, New York City Employment and Training Coalition). Speakers include Sandy Hornick (Deputy Executive Director for Strategic Planning, NYC Department of City Planning), Adam Friedman (Executive Director, NYC Industrial Retention Network), Michael Slattery (Senior Vice President for Research, Real Estate Board of New York) and Eva Hanhardt (Senior Advisor, Planning Center, The Municipal Art Society).

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: House of the Association, 42 West 44th Street

No reservation or fee required

Web: View Calendar on <http://abcny.org/>

Through Monday, January 19, 2004

"BIG & GREEN: Toward Sustainable Architecture in the 21st Century"

New York City, NY

The Museum of the City of New York hosts this fascinating exhibit examining leading designs on "green" skyscrapers and megastructures, built to consume less energy and utilize renewable materials and resources.

For more information: <http://www.mcny.org/Exhibitions/BigGreen/Bigngreen.htm>

Through Friday, January 30, 2004

"Greening Downtown:
An Exhibition at Fordham University's Center Gallery"

New York City, NY

Organized by Fordham University and the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown, this exhibition features sketches and models prepared by members of the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York at the December 2002 Planning Workshop for Lower Manhattan, seven "Green Ground Zero" Competition design proposals by Fordham architecture students, and Kiss + Cathcart's "2020 tower," which was featured at the 'Big + Green' exhibition. The exhibition is sponsored by the Student Arts Guild, and the Visual Arts, Urban Studies and Environmental Studies Programs of Fordham College at Lincoln Center.

Days & Times: Monday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm

Location: Center Gallery, Fordham College at Lincoln Center, 113 West 60th Street (at Columbus), New York 10023

Friday, February 6, 2004

Visiting Scholars Seminar 2004:

"Transportation, Border Control, and Homeland Security"

New York, NY

Presented by Region 2 of the University Transportation Research Center, visiting scholar Stephen E. Flynn, the Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow for National Security Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, will discuss transportation, border control and security.

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Baruch College, Information & Technical Building, 151 East 25th St., 7th Floor, Room 750

To register, e-mail: seminars@utrc2.org

Web: www.utrc2.org

Monday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, 2004

"Security Threats in a Networked World:
New Technologies, New Challenges"

Chatham House, London SW1

A conference organized by The Royal Institute of International Affairs in association with the UK Cabinet Office, Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

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

Phone: Conference Unit on +44 (0) 20 7957 5754

e-mail: conferences@riia.org

Mail: The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, UK

Monday, March 29 and Tuesday, March 30, 2004

"The 3rd Annual New Roofs for a New Century International Conference"

New York, NY

The 3rd Annual New Roofs for a New Century International Conference (NRNC) kicks off in New York City.

e-mail: EBANYS@aol.com

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

WEB FEATURE OF THE MONTH

"Community Information Technology Initiative"

"The Community Information Technology Initiative (CITI) is a project of the Municipal Art Society, in collaboration with NYPIRG's Community Mapping Assistance Project, Space Track and ESRI. The CITI website provides detailed maps of properties in New York City and includes information on land use, zoning, ownership, transportation and more. Community and City generated planning proposals and recommendations are also displayed. Participating community boards have the opportunity to create their own data about their districts and add it to the system. Users of the system can create maps, add comments and email or print them out to be sent to community board offices, elected officials or city agencies" (CITI).

Community Information Technology Initiative. 16 December 2003.

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

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.

